

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		12 February 2020	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Loraine Cox - Housing	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Fiona Goodfellow Housing Strategy & Policy Manager	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Global Resettlement Scheme Request for Procurement Rules Exemption	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek a waiver of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the purchase of casework support as required for the Global Resettlement Scheme implementation in Hyndburn.
- 1.2 To seek a waiver of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the purchase of voluntary sector support as required for the Global Resettlement Scheme implementation in Hyndburn.

2. Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:-

- 2.1 Waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the appointment of Calico Enterprise Ltd to provide casework support for a period of 2 years for the refugee households arriving in Hyndburn in July 2020 as part of the Global Resettlement Scheme.
- 2.2 Waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the appointment of Maundy Relief (on behalf of THRIVE) to provide voluntary sector support for a period of 2 years for the refugee households arriving in Hyndburn in July 2020 as part of the Global Resettlement Scheme.
- 2.3 Delegates authority to the Head of Regeneration and Housing in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Housing services to agree the terms of the

Council's agreement with Calico Enterprise Ltd and Maundy Relief and the terms of the Local Authority Agreement between the Council and Lancashire County Council.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

Global Resettlement Scheme (GRS)

- 3.1 This programme is being introduced by the Home Office from 2020/21 and will consolidate all current resettlement programmes for refugees. Lancashire has been asked to be involved by the Home Office and Lancashire County Council is the lead authority for its co-ordination on behalf of all Local Authorities in Lancashire.
- 3.2 The GRS will broaden the geographical focus beyond the Middle East and North Africa region. Therefore refugees could come from many countries including Syria, Iraq, Iran, Somalia and Sudan.
- 3.3 The funding structure and delivery of the programme for the first cohort arriving in 2020/21 will be very similar to the current Syrian Resettlement Programme in Lancashire. Both the funding structure and numbers beyond 2020/21 are subject to agreement from the Treasury.
- 3.4 Local Delivery – all Lancashire local authorities have been requested to pledge and commit to resettle 10 refugee households over a 5 year period. Hyndburn has committed to receive the first 5 households in July 2020. Preparations are now underway to enable this to happen.
- 3.5 Whilst a lot of the arrangements and logistics are co-ordinated by Lancashire CC there are numerous responsibilities on Hyndburn Borough Council to undertake prior to the refugees arrival. These will be detailed in the Agreement between LCC and the Council (to be agreed) and include the following:-
- 3.6 Sourcing suitable self-contained accommodation for the families. Onward Homes, who provided the accommodation for the 10 Syrian Refugee households who arrived in July 2018, have agreed to source and provide houses for the 5 families arriving in July 2020 under the GRS. As before we will need a variety of property sizes i.e. 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms to match the household sizes arriving - full details of the size and make-up of Hyndburn's households will be known in April / May 2020. The properties will be located in the Accrington area so the households have easy access to services, facilities etc. There is no requirement for a formal agreement between the Council and Onward Homes as the Council is only signposting the refugee households to the housing and will not be taking any responsibility for the management of the properties. Onward Homes will be responsible for co-ordinating and undertaking the housing management activities which include the preparation of the properties (repairs, carpeting and furnishing, utilities, tenancy agreements) for the households prior to arrival.
- 3.7 Casework Support Service – under the Lancashire programme the Council is required to establish or commission a system of casework support to the refugees which shall be made available to individuals and families for the first 2 years following their arrival.

The casework support includes initial reception arrangements and intensive orientation support in the first 2/3 weeks following arrival. Following this period ongoing support, bespoke to each family, will be provided during the first 12 months. The level of support for the following 12 months will be 'stepped down' and will be less intensive to encourage independence. Casework Support is fundamental in assisting the refugee families to settle in and achieve self-sufficiency and independence. Frontline support workers will work with the families on a 1 to 1 basis and includes the following: - settling into the property, orientation of home and local area, registering at GP's, Job Centre Plus and schools, helping with bank accounts etc. Further guidance and details of the support required for Syrian Refugees is contained within the LGA Publication: 'Syrian Refugee Resettlement: A Guide for Local Authorities'.

- 3.8 It is proposed that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules are waived in order to award the contract for the provision of the 'casework support service' detailed to Calico Enterprise Ltd without first testing the market. Calico Enterprise delivered a highly successful floating support service across East Lancashire for many years and has built up significant knowledge and skills around the delivery of casework support. Additionally Calico has been providing a successful casework support service for Syrian Resettlement in Hyndburn over the last 18 months. Calico is a trusted local service provider who works closely with the Council. They will also be able to build on the existing staff knowledge and skills developed over the last couple of years working with the refugee community. There is not another local service provider with dual skills of casework support and experience of working intensively with refugee households. It will also ensure continuity of service delivery.
- 3.9 Voluntary Sector Support - during the first 2 years of resettlement under the GRS the Council will receive some dedicated funding (Local Integration Fund) via LCC to assist local voluntary sector groups in the delivery of the cultural, social, educational and recreational elements of the programme e.g. English conversation classes, trips, events, cultural awareness sessions, IT classes, arts, crafts and gardening groups etc.
- 3.10 Again it is proposed that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules are waived in order to award the contract for the provision of voluntary sector support detailed to Maundy Relief on behalf of the THRIVE partnership – an informal grouping of six local third sector organisations (Adventure Hyndburn, Citizens Advice Rossendale & Hyndburn, Community Solutions North West, HARV, Homewise and Maundy Relief) without first testing the market. They have been successfully co-ordinating and delivering the voluntary sector support to the Syrian refugee households since they arrived in July 2018 and have developed detailed knowledge and understanding of the refugee community in Hyndburn. This will also ensure continuity of service delivery.
- 3.11 A procurement / tendering exercise does not appear to be sensible in the circumstances as it could add to the costs in undertaking the procurement process and will cause delays in commencing service provision that needs to be in place well before the arrival date in July. The Council will enter into a legal agreement with Calico Enterprise Ltd for the casework support and Maundy Relief for the voluntary sector support which will specify details of the services to be provided.

3.12 The GRS is delivered at nil cost to the Council. Grant funding is provided for the programme through the Home Office via Lancashire CC. The indicative budgets for 2020/21 and 2021/22 in respect of the 5 households being settled in Hyndburn include £10k per year for the voluntary sector support and £67,500 over 2 years for the casework support.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The Council could undertake a procurement exercise to choose a service provider for the above services but this is not recommended for the reasons stated in paragraph 3.8 3.10 and 3.11.

5. Consultations

5.1 Consultation and discussion about Hyndburn’s commitment to the Global Resettlement Scheme has been discussed at the Lancashire Refugee Resettlement Programme Steering group co-ordinated by LCC that meets bi-monthly. Locally the Hyndburn Asylum and Refugee Partnership has been consulted and there is considerable support from partner agencies in the borough. Additionally a report was taken to Regeneration and Housing Panel on 14th October 2019 when support was given to Hyndburn Borough Council participating in the scheme.

6. Implications

<p>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</p>	<p>The GRS is delivered at nil cost to the Local Authority. Grant funding is provided for the programme through the Home Office via Lancashire CC. Costs will be reimbursed. The indicative budget for 2020/21 and 2021/22 delivery is £67.5k for Casework Support Services and £10k for the Local Integration Fund. Any rent loss incurred by Onward Homes keeping the properties empty prior to the refugee’s arrival will also be reimbursed.</p>
<p>Legal and human rights implications</p>	<p>An agreement will be in place between LCC and the Council for the awarding of the funding for the programme to the Council. It will also detail the role and obligations of both partners. A grant agreement will be agreed between the Council and Calico Enterprise for the delivery of the casework support and between the Council and Maundy Relief for the voluntary sector support.</p>
<p>Assessment of risk</p>	<p>Risk in relation to service delivery will be managed by monitoring fulfilment of the terms of the grant agreements with Calico Enterprise and Maundy Relief.</p>

<p>Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i></p>	<p>The Council is part of the Lancashire wide Global Resettlement Scheme and equality and diversity issues have been considered as part of this programme particularly through the Lancashire Refugee Integration Strategy. Calico Enterprise will address community cohesion issues and help the Syrian Refugee households integrate into the local community as part of the delivery of the casework support referred to in this report.</p>
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**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

7.1 *Copies of documents included in this list must be open to inspection and, in the case of reports to Cabinet, must be published on the website.*