

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		18 July 2018	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Clare Cleary - Housing	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Fiona Goodfellow, Housing Strategy & Policy Manager	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Lancashire Syrian Resettlement Programme – 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 the waiver of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the purchase of voluntary sector support for the Syrian Refugee households arriving in Hyndburn in July 2018.

2. Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:-

- 2.1 Agrees to accept grant funding of £20,000.00 from Lancashire County Council to provide voluntary sector support for the Syrian refugee households
- 2.2 Waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the appointment of Maundy Relief (on behalf of Pennine Service Delivery Partnership – PSDP) for a period of 2 years to deliver this support.
- 2.3 Delegates authority to the Head of Regeneration and Housing following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Housing Services to agree the terms of the Council's agreement with Maundy Relief.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 Lancashire County Council is the lead authority in Lancashire for the co-ordination and resettlement of Syrian Refugees through the Lancashire Syrian Resettlement Programme on behalf of all Local Authorities in Lancashire.

- 3.2 In January 2016 the Lancashire Chief Executives Group pledged to resettle 500 refugees under the 'Syrian Resettlement Programme' (SRP) across Lancashire. Additionally in September 2016 it pledged to resettle 75 refugees (including children and their families) under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Programme (VCRS). The refugees resettled under these programmes are referred to the UK by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
- 3.3 This is a 5 year programme and by the end of 2017 a total of 311 refugees (including 24 through the VCRS) had been resettled in Lancashire. This amounts to 67 households. Approximately another 70 cases / families need to be resettled over the next 2/3 years. In October 2016 Hyndburn Borough Council pledged to take between 5 and 10 households during the 2018/19 financial year of the programme through either, or a combination of, the SRP or the VCRS. Resettled refugees are initially granted leave to remain for 5 years, after which they become eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain.
- 3.4 Hyndburn will receive 10 families (through the SRP) that will arrive on a charter flight on Tuesday 17th July 2018.
- 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.
- 3.6 A report to Cabinet on 11 April 2018 detailed these responsibilities that include the provision of voluntary sector support to the refugee households to complement and enhance the casework support service.
- 3.7 The Cabinet report also detailed the proposal to work with The Pennine Service Delivery Partnership (PSDP) – an informal grouping of seven local third sector organisations (Women's Centre, Adventure Hyndburn, Homewise, Maundy Relief, HARV, Community Solutions and CAB) to co-ordinate the delivery of this to the Syrian Refugee households.
- 3.8 These organisations will provide a programme of cultural, social, educational and recreational activities and initiatives to support the integration of the Syrian households in Hyndburn. Activities will include English conversation, family cooking sessions, holiday family activities, art and gardening groups etc. PSDP will work with Calico Enterprise Ltd. to complement and enhance the casework support being provided.
- 3.9 The SRP is delivered at nil cost to the Council. Grant funding is provided for the programme through the Home Office via Lancashire CC. The 2018/19 and 2019/20 budgets include £20,000 per year for the Local Integration Fund which will meet the cost of the voluntary sector support referred to above.
- 3.10 It is proposed that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules are waived in order to award the contract for the provision of the voluntary sector support service detailed to the bodies comprising the PSDP without first testing the market. These organisations all have a credible track record of providing support to the most vulnerable residents in the Borough (including asylum seekers) and have worked with Hyndburn Borough

Council and other local partners for many years. Maundy Relief has agreed to be the 'accountable body' for these arrangements and it is proposed that the 'grant agreement' will be with them, with Maundy Relief responsible for distributing the funding appropriately to the other organisations.

- 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 Maundy Relief which will specify details of the services to be provided.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The Council could carry out a procurement exercise to choose a support provider in respect of the additional services, but this is not recommended for the reasons stated in paragraph 3.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation and discussion about Lancashire's commitment to the SRP was discussed at the Lancashire Chief Executives Group in 2016 and is ongoing through the Lancashire Refugee Resettlement Programme Steering group co-ordinated by LCC that meets bi-monthly. Locally the Hyndburn Asylum and Refugee Partnership, facilitated by Hyndburn BC, have been meeting for the last 2/3 years and there is considerable support from partner agencies in the borough.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	The SRP is delivered at nil cost to the Council. Grant funding is provided for the programme through the Home Office via Lancashire CC. Costs will be fully reimbursed. The budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20 delivery include £20k per year for the Local Integration Fund to provide voluntary sector support.
Legal and human rights implications	An agreement will be put in place between LCC and the Council for the award of the funding for the programme to the Council. It will also detail the role and obligations of both parties. A grant agreement will be agreed between the Council and Maundy Relief for the provision of voluntary sector support.
Assessment of risk	Risk will be managed by monitoring service delivery through the grant agreement.

<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 Syrian Resettlement Programme and equality and diversity issues have been considered as part of this programme particularly through the Lancashire Refugee Integration Strategy. PSDP will address community cohesion issues and help the Syrian Refugee households integrate into the local community as part of the delivery of the voluntary sector 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 Urgent Cabinet Decision 11 April 2018 – ‘Lancashire Syrian Resettlement Programme – Procurement Rules Exemption’

8. Freedom of Information

- 8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.