

1 February 2022



<b>Title</b>	Refugee Schemes Policy
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To make a Key Decision
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<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	N/a
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Housing
<b>Recommendations</b>	Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee is asked to:  Approve the adoption of the Refugee Policy.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	This policy seeks to require the Committee to consider all refugee schemes proposed by the government and assess their merits.

## 1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee have asked for a Refugee Schemes Policy to be developed to clarify the Council's position of being open to consider Refugee schemes proposed by the Government and to assess them individually in terms of the Council's resources and funding available to support the schemes.

## 2. Options analysis and proposal

### Option 1: To reject the policy

The Council will not adopt the Policy, but still have the freedom to consider future refugee schemes at the time that they are published by the government. The Council will just not have a policy that requires to consider all schemes as they are offered.

### Option 2: To adopt the proposed Policy (recommended)

The adoption of the Policy will require the Council to consider all refugee schemes, and to carry out an in-depth analysis of financial and resource requirements for each scheme. Officers will present full analyses to the Committee for consideration.

### Option 3: To adopt an altered version of the proposed Policy

To propose changes to the proposed Policy, consequently adopting a revised version of the Policy.

### **3. Financial implications**

- 3.1 Financial implications of each refugee scheme and their available resources will be considered, formulated, and presented to the Committee for their review and decision.

### **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1 In depth analysis of each refugee scheme can be labour intensive, and impact on the resources available to provide existing services, with a number of Council departments required to adequately analyse and prepare reports for the Committee's consideration.

### **5. Equality and Diversity**

- 5.1 An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out and is provided in Appendix B.

### **6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**

- 6.1 The proposed Policy does not have an impact on the Council's sustainability / climate change position.

### **7. Timetable for implementation**

- 7.1 Once approved, the policy will be implemented immediately, and future Refugee Schemes will be analysed in detail and presented to the Committee for consideration.
- 7.2 This policy will be comprehensively reviewed every 5 years.

**Background papers: There are none.**

#### **Appendices:**

*Appendix A: Refugee Schemes Policy*

*Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment for Acquisition of Refugee Policy*