



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

REGISTER OF URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Annexe 2: Officer Delegations
– Chief Executive

1) SUBJECT: Afghanistan Resettlement Scheme

2) REQUESTED DECISION:

To accept the MOD's offer of a further 6 units of family accommodation at RMB Chivenor for the Afghanistan Resettlement Scheme, in addition to the current 12 units already occupied for the ARAP scheme.

3) STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST AND WHY IT IS URGENT:

Members approved at Strategy and Resources Committee on 5th June 2023 to note the potential impact of the Security Force Assistance Scheme (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy ARAP) on local housing need and to accept the MOD's original offer of 12 units of family accommodation at RMB Chivenor.

The rationale behind the decision being the potential impact on housing services in North Devon following the local closure of 2 x bridging hotels and by increasing the supply of temporary accommodation at RMB Chivenor reduces the lack of supply and/or increased costs associated with NDC's statutory homeless duties.

Of these 12 units of accommodation, 9 are already occupied and 3 further units will be occupied by December 2023.

The Home Office have asked the Council to agree to a further additional 6 units of accommodation at RMB Chivenor, which would take the total allocation to 18 units. NDC's Housing Manager is in close contact with the schools and local services to engage and understand and manage local impact.

The Council receive funding of circa £20,000 per refugee over 3 years on the basis of agreement to the numbers within the scheme and these funds are used to provide wrap around support. Central Government lease the properties directly through the

MOD and if NDC did not agree to the additional units, it is likely that the MOD would carry on with the additional scheme numbers regardless of NDC support, however the Council would then likely not receive the above funding.

Decision on whether to accept the additional 6 units of accommodation is required to feed back to the Home Office and due to the timeline for decisions this cannot wait until the next Strategy and Resources Committee in January 2024.

4) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The costs associated with leasing the properties from the MOD is picked up by Central Government, however the Council will receive £20,560 per refugee, over 3 years, which will be used to provide the associated wrap around support required.

5) ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

NDC could reject to the request of additional units for the scheme, however it is likely that the MOD would carry on with the additional scheme numbers regardless of NDC intervention which would have an impact on a need to still provide the important wrap around support however it would be likely that the Council would not receive the government funding.

6) A RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED:

No Conflicts are relevant.

7) A NOTE OF ANY DISPENSATION IF GRANTED:

N/A

8) LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Strategy and Resources Committee 5 June 2023.

9) CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

The following have been consulted on this urgent decision:

Consultee	Consulted Yes/No	Date
Leader of Council	Yes	04/12/2023
Lead Member Councillor Bell	Yes	04/12/2023
Ward Member(s) Councillors Bell & Maskell	Yes	04/12/2023

Consultee	Consulted Yes/No	Date
Strategy & Resources Members		
Councillor I. Roome	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor G. Bell	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor D. Knight	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor R. Knight	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor G. Lane	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor C. Leaver	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor P. Maskell	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor M. Prowse	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor M. Wilkinson	Yes	04/12/2023
Councillor D. Worden	Yes	04/12/2023
Head of Service		
Nina Lake	Yes	04/12/2023
Finance		
Tony Rumble	Yes	08/12/2023
Legal		
Simon Fuller	Yes	08/12/2023

10) OFFICER REQUESTING URGENT DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Sarah Bentley, Service Manager - Housing

11) APPROVED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE: YES (approved by Deputy Chief Executive in the absence of the Chief Executive)

12) DATE OF DECISION: 8 December 2023

13) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMENTS:

Members have previously approved to accept the MOD's original offer of 12 units of family accommodation at RMB Chivenor and the associated funding to provide the key wrap around support required for the refugees. Of these 12 units of accommodation, 9 are already occupied and 3 further units will be occupied by December 2023.

The Council receive funding of circa £20,000 per refugee over 3 years on the basis of agreement to the numbers within the scheme and these funds are used to provide

much needed wrap around support. Central Government lease the properties directly through the MOD and if NDC did not agree to the additional units, it is likely that the MOD would carry on with the additional scheme numbers regardless of NDC support, however the Council would then likely not receive the above funding.

14) DATE TO BE PRESENTED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

8 January 2024

GUIDANCE NOTES

NOTE:

PROCEDURE FOR URGENT DECISIONS:

1. Completed form to be passed to the Chief Executive following consultation with the interested parties.
2. If a decision is specific to a Ward, efforts should be made to ascertain the views of the local Councillor (s).
3. The Chief Executive will make his decision.

PROCEDURE FOR URGENT DECISION MAKING AS PER THE CONSTITUTION

Officer Delegations: the Chief Executive:

Urgent Decision Making

- 3.48 To take a decision on any matter falling within the remit of any Committee in cases of urgency where it is not reasonably practicable to obtain prior approval of a Committee SUBJECT TO:
 - 3.48.1 the prior consultation, where practicable, with the Leader or Deputy Leader and the Chair or Vice Chair of the relevant Committee, and
 - 3.48.2 the proviso that this power will not extend to the determination of any application submitted pursuant to the Planning Acts or under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005, and
 - 3.48.3 the decision being reported to the next meeting of the relevant Committee and the next meeting of Strategy and Resources Committee.