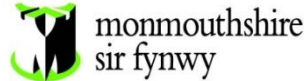


Public Document Pack



Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 19 January 2016

Dear Councillor

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

Notice is hereby given that the following decisions made by a member of the cabinet will be made on Wednesday, 27 January 2016.

1. **Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme - Minor Amendment to Allocation Policy** 1 - 10

Division/Wards Affected: All Wards

CABINET MEMBER: County Councillor Phil Hobson

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make a minor amendment to the Council's Homeseach allocation policy to support and facilitate the Council's participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme.

AUTHOR: Ian Bakewell, Housing & Communities Manager

CONTACT DETAILS: Tel: 01633 644479; E-mail:

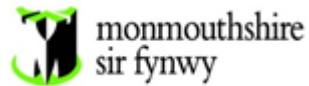
ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

CABINET PORTFOLIOS

County Councillor	Area of Responsibility	Partnership and External Working	Ward
P.A. Fox (Leader)	<p>Organisational Development Whole Council Performance, Whole Council Strategy Development, Corporate Services, Democracy.</p> <p>Environment, Public Services & Housing Development Control, Building Control, Housing Service, Trading Standards, Public Protection, Environment & Countryside.</p>	<p>WLGA Council WLGA Coordinating Board Local Service Board</p> <p>SEWTA SEWSPG</p>	Portskewett
R.J.W. Greenland (Deputy Leader)	<p>Innovation, Enterprise & Leisure Innovation Agenda, Economic Development, Tourism, Social Enterprise, Leisure, Libraries & Culture, Information Technology, Information Systems.</p>	<p>WLGA Council Capital Region Tourism</p>	Devauden
P.A.D. Hobson (Deputy Leader)	<p>Community Development Community Planning/Total Place, Equalities, Area Working, Citizen Engagement, Public Relations, Sustainability, Parks & Open Spaces, Community Safety.</p>	<p>Community Safety Partnership Equalities and Diversity Group</p>	Larkfield
E.J. Hackett Pain	<p>Schools and Learning School Improvement, Pre-School Learning, Additional Learning Needs, Children's Disabilities, Families First, Youth Service, Adult Education.</p>	<p>Joint Education Group (EAS) WJEC</p>	Wyesham
G. Burrows	<p>Social Care, Safeguarding & Health Adult Social Services including Integrated services, Learning disabilities, Mental Health. Children's Services including Safeguarding, Looked after Children, Youth Offending. Health and Wellbeing.</p>	<p>Gwent Frailty Board Older Persons Strategy Partnership Group</p>	Mitchel Troy
P. Murphy	<p>Resources Accountancy, Internal Audit, Estates & Property Services, Procurement, Human Resources & Training, Health & Safety.</p>	<p>Prosiect Gwrydd Wales Purchasing Consortium</p>	Caerwent
S.B. Jones	<p>County Operations Highways, Transport, Traffic & Network Management, Waste & Recycling, Engineering, Landscapes, Flood Risk.</p>	<p>SEWTA Prosiect Gwrydd</p>	Goytre Fawr



Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

SUBJECT:	Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relcoation Programme – Minor Amendment to Allocation Policy
MEETING:	Single Member Cabinet Decision
DATE:	26th August 2015
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make a minor amendment to the Council's Homeseach allocation policy to support and facilitate the Council's participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To agree to the minor amendment as detailed in Para 3.5.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme has been established by the UK Government to relocate vulnerable Syruian refugees displaced to neighbouring countries through the current conflict.
- 3.2 The Council agreed during 2015 to support and participate in the scheme. The Council will take the lead in working with other key partners to ensure that arrivals are provided with suitable accommodation and the specific need of those vulnerable individuals are met. This report deals with the accommodation element of the scheme.
- 3.3 The accommodation provision will be co-ordinated by Housing & Community Services through the Private Sector Housing Team. The Team have experience of this type of initiative through the Council's current participation in a similar Home Office scheme.
- 3.4 It is proposed that vacant social housing is utilised as the main source of accommodation for Syrian households. All of the local housing assocaitions have committed to support the Council in the scheme. However, should the Council be able to identify suitable private rented accommodation, this would also be considered as a possible option.
- 3.5 The current policy has provision for Special Management Lettings in the event of exceptional circumstances and urgent housing need. It is proposed that this policy be amended be updated as detailed below:

Special Management Lettings

We recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances where the only way an exceptionally urgent housing need can be resolved is through the use of management discretion.

There is ability in very urgent cases for MHR Operational Sub Group to exercise discretion. In the interests of fairness to all applicants these circumstances are kept to an absolute minimum. Such cases will include the following circumstances:

- a) Residents of Monmouthshire who are RSL tenants whose homes are damaged by flood, fire or other disaster may be provided with another tenancy immediately if it is not possible to repair their existing accommodation.
 - b) Households who on Police advice must be moved as a matter of urgency, e.g. continued harassment, racial harassment, hate crimes, and domestic abuse.
 - c) Humanitarian protection, vulnerable person schemes/resettlement schemes or where an applicant has an exceptional need that is not covered by the allocation scheme. This may Child or Public Protection issues require urgent rehousing
- 3.6 The accommodation provision will be overseen by a Steering Group being established to co-ordinate participation in the scheme by the Policy & Engagement Team
- 4. REASONS:**
- 4.1 The Council has agreed to support the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relcoation Scheme.
- 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**
- 5.1 Central government funding is available to cover a range of measures to assist the support to Syrian households. In the context of accommodation, the actual costs will be covered of up to two months void costs when securing accommodation plus the actual cost of adapting and furnishing properties where necessary
- 6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**
- 6.1 There are no negative implications relating to this report. **Please see Appendix 1.**
- 7 SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1 There are no Safeguarding or Corporate Parenting Implications with this report.
- 8. CONSULTEES:** Cabinet; Senior Leadership Team; Head of Community Led Delivery; Head of Policy & Engagement; Accountant (Housing & Communities); Monmouthshire, Charter and Melin Housing Associations.
- 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme
- 10. AUTHOR:** Ian Bakewell, Housing & Communities Manager
- 11. CONTACT DETAILS:** Tel: 01633 644479; E-mail: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk



<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Ian Bakewell</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644479 E-mail: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Minor amendments to the Council housing allocation policy to facilitate the Council’s participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Households Relocation Scheme</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Housing & Community Services</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> <p>28th December 2014</p>





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Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positively contributes through an efficient use of resources. People being able to access more suitable accommodation within their communities more independently.</p>	<p>The proposal will be a key part of a wider package of support for Syrian households</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>None</p>

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Positively contributes to the health of relocated Syrian households through the provision of good quality accommodation.	N/A
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positively contributes by helping Syrian households to integrate into the Monmouthshire.	Efforts will be made to identify accommodation in the South of the County with closer proximity to the M4 and other transport links
Page 4 A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	The proposal helps to deliver the Council's support to the UK Government in relation to the current Syrian conflict which is having international implications	Households will have better facilities that will encourage physical wellbeing and a stable home which will support employment and learning opportunities
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Positively contributes by providing a stable home that supports people to access opportunities	N/A

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Long-term Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The proposal supports the provision of housing accommodation, designed to alleviate a humanitarian crisis.</p>	<p>This proposal updates the existing allocation policy accordingly</p>
 <p>Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Housing Association partners have been requested to support the proposal through the Homesearch partnership. The Council has received a positive commitment from each of the local housing associations</p>	<p>N/A</p>
 <p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The housing assistance will support other stakeholders including UK Government and the Home Office, the local health board and Education. Local residents can also be regarded as stakeholders as there is a high level of expectation that Syrian refugees. The Council has received offers of assistance from local residents</p>	
 <p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The proposal, alongside other local authorities, helps to mitigate against the current humanitarian crisis.</p>	<p>Acquiring agreement from the local housing associations to support the scheme</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p data-bbox="152 343 306 375">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="331 215 515 399">Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	<p data-bbox="546 215 1317 311">The scheme positively impacts upon the households that will benefit from the scheme through the availability of a safe place to live</p>	

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Older people can potentially access the service, but shouldn't need to due to other provision though the Housing Register	None	
Disability	Disabled people can and are expected to access the service	None.	
Gender reassignment	neutral	None	
Marriage or civil partnership	neutral	None	
Race	neutral	None	
Religion or Belief	The households expected to benefit from this are expected to have strong religious beliefs attributable to the Syrian nationality	None	
Sex	neutral	None	
Sexual Orientation	neutral	None	
Welsh Language	neutral	None	

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance note <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Equality%20impact%20assessment%20and%20safeguarding.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	The proposal will be helping to alleviate risks and abuse relating to a the current Syrian conflict	<i>No negative impacts</i>	Any will be picked up and responded to through the co-ordination of the Steering Group.
Corporate Parenting	Ditto	No negative impacts	Ditto

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Home Office related information

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The main positive benefits of this mandate are:

- Good quality accommodation that provides a safe and secure living environment and provides a basis for the provision of wider support

The main negative impacts is:

- There is a general shortage of accommodation in Monmouthshire.

7. Actions. As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
Actively considering social housing vacancies through the Homesearch partnership	Weekly activity	Karen Durrant, Private Sector Housing Manager	This is an on-going activity of the Homesearch Partnership
Actively looking to identify Private Sector accommodation	Weekly activity	Karen Durrant, Private Sector Housing Manager	This is an on-going activity of the Private Sector Housing Team

8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:

An on-going basis through the scheme Steering Group

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