

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Public Protection
DATE	11 March 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Resettlement Delivery Plan
REPORT NUMBER	F&C/25/050
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Eleanor Sheppard
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	Gill Strachan
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.1 and 1.1.5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the Resettlement Delivery Plan as found in Appendix B.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Note the analysis of Resettlement in Appendix A has informed the development of the draft Resettlement Delivery Plan;
- 2.2 Approve the draft Resettlement Delivery Plan in Appendix B;
- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to seek feedback from key stakeholders including academics linked to the Health Determinates Research Collaboration in advance of refreshing the Resettlement Delivery Plan in 2026 and undertaking a wider analysis in 2027; and
- 2.4 Instruct the Chief Officer - Housing to report progress against the Plan, and any proposed changes to the Plan in light of changing circumstances, to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on a yearly basis.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR, 2023) reported that in 2023, more than 117 million people worldwide fled their homes due to conflict, persecution and human rights violations, which was an increase of 9 million compared to the previous year.
- 3.2. The UK Home Office reported in the year ending September 2024:

- 89,250 grants of leave were offered via safe and legal (humanitarian) routes to come to, or remain in, the UK and,
 - 99,790 asylum applications were made. The number of people claiming asylum has more than doubled since year ending September 2021.
- 3.3 Along with other Local Authorities across the UK, Aberdeen has strived to meet the challenges presented by the rapid influx of displaced people seeking support and refuge and is currently home to over 2,000 displaced people, having witnessed a ten-fold increase in arrivals over the last 3 years.
- 3.4 This increase in migration should be viewed against the backdrop of falling population levels within the City, declining birth rates and an aging population as well as continuing reductions to public services leading to critical pressures, particularly in relation to housing supply, an increase in homelessness presentations, lack of school places and the provision of primary care and mental health services. New Scots, who are successfully supported to thrive in our city, could help reduce the significant risks around a reduced working age population and enable Aberdonians to continue to benefit from a culturally diverse society. This Plan aims to balance the institutional financial risk with the significant opportunity presented by those who continue to make the city their home.
- 3.5 It is imperative that we plan carefully to support those who seek refuge in the city and have worked with partners, to explore the needs of our resettled population in order to establish a measurable two -year Delivery Plan which is closely aligned to national guidance.
- 3.6 In keeping with the draft Local Housing Strategy also being considered by Committee, our exploration of need has been structured under the five themes of the social determinants of health:
- Education & Lifelong Learning
 - Economic Stability
 - Communities & Housing
 - Neighbourhood & Environment
 - Health & Social Care
- 3.7 In addition to exploring needs through the social determinants, consideration has been given to the complexity of need experienced by some who settle in the city. Exploring needs through a range of 'personas' has helped Officers fully consider the complexity of needs facing some New Scots. This has helped ensure that our Delivery Plan is firmly focussed on what is known about the current and future needs of New Scots.
- 3.8 As a Local Authority, Aberdeen City Council has been at the forefront of Scotland's response to welcoming displaced people. We now need to build on the learning from recent resettlement programmes to ensure that we are best equipped to support those most in need helping them to forge a positive future,

whilst also focusing services on preventive action to harness the potential of those arriving, living in and contributing to our communities.

3.9 Our approach is fully aligned to the national New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2024 and is based on the following six principles:

- Integration from day one of arrival
- A right- based approach
- Restorative and trauma informed
- Involvement of people with lived experience of forced displacement
- Inclusive, intercultural communities
- Partnership and collaboration

3.10 The Plan has been developed following extensive engagement with key Partners, by reviewing relevant documentation from the Health Determinates Research Collaborative and by reflecting on the experiences of New Scots who have been supported over the last few years.

3.11 Officers will keep the Plan under review to ensure that all new learning, including learning from the planned engagement around the Local Housing Strategy is fully taken into account.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This Plan aims to balance the institutional financial risk associated with supporting an increasing volume of New Scots with the significant opportunity presented by those who continue to make the city their home. Funding is currently received from the UK and Scottish Governments for the various asylum/refugee schemes based on numbers within Aberdeen City Council.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
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Strategic Risk	Excessive resettlement leading to unsustainable demand. Impact of reducing population.	Delivery Programme will support mitigations to manage impact. The impact of a reducing population could be mitigated through the effective settlement of those seeking refuge in the city.	M	Yes
Compliance	Non-compliance with New Scots Integration Strategy and Delivery Plan	Delivery Programme will support compliance with New Scots Integration Strategy and Delivery Plan.	L	Yes
Operational	Unplanned impacts on services	Delivery Programme provides a framework to mitigate against unexpected and unplanned service demand.	M	Yes
Financial	Financial and expenditure impacts due to excessive service demand.	Delivery Programme mitigates financial risk by maximising funding opportunities and controlling costs.	L	Yes
Reputational	Favourable reputation in this field could be damaged and public perception affected.	Delivery Programme details accountability and governance to manage Programme. Delivery Programme identifies community development approach to support integration	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>Council Delivery Plan 2024</u>	
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	Impact of Report There is rising demand for care and wellbeing services. Every individual deserves to have the confidence that the Council will do what it can to ensure that the widest possible range of quality support is given where, and when, it is needed. We will work with partners to address the growing diversity of physical and mental health issues that are experienced by the people in our city

Local Outcome Improvement Plan		
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes		The proposal within this report supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 1 – 1. No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes		The proposal within this report supports the delivery of Stretch Outcome 11 - Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.
Regional and City Strategies		

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	A review of existing DPIAs is being undertaken to ensure all data is captured and risk assessed.
Other	Not applicable

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 [HDRC Population Event Report](#)
- 10.2 HDRC health needs of asylum seekers and [Video](#)

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A, Analysis of Resettlement
- 11.2 Appendix B, Resettlement Delivery Plan

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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