

Impact Assessment extract from Afghan Locally Employed Staff Council 30th September 2021

8.2.1 The impact on existing local communities and infrastructure, such as schools, medical and dental practices from the recommendation contained in this report has been considered.

8.2.2 As the composition and identities of any refugee families accepted is unknown it is difficult to predict the eventual impact of participating in the LES scheme.

8.2.3 Although there is inevitably some uncertainty, the process by which the Council works with the SEMSP to match a refugee family closely to the accommodation and local facilities available will minimise such a risk.

8.2.4 The impact of the recommendation on the borough's existing homelessness requirement will be mitigated by restricting properties involved in the LES scheme to those not available for use to offer to other homelessness households.

8.2.5 Under the LES scheme the typical level of proficiency in speaking English Language, even if only one family member, will mitigate the risks of long term unemployment.

8.2.6 Should the household fail to integrate and become self-sufficient after year 3, there is a risk that they will continue to need council support without any additional government funding. This could include being eligible for assistance under the Homelessness Reduction Act including the use of temporary accommodation.

8.2.7 Should households with indefinite leave to remain present to the Council outside the LES scheme the Council would need to assess and meet any statutory duties that may be owed to the household under Homelessness Reduction Act. Page 10 Agenda Item 3 Council 30 September 2021

8.2.8 As a result of recent changes made to the Habitual Residence Test (HRT) these households are able to approach council's directly from 16 September 2021 onwards.

8.2.9 A decision not to participate in the Afghan LES resettlement scheme might be open to criticism from the public, other participating councils and the Home Office and MHCLG. In contrast a decision to participate in any refugee settlement may generate some criticism although this is likely to be less than that from not participating.