

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet

Title	Strategic approach to refugees and asylum seekers in Herefordshire
Decision maker	Cabinet Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	14 December 2017
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	To approve an updated strategic approach to re-settlement of refugees and asylum seekers and the provision of support to them.
Decision	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Herefordshire Council's voluntary participation in the general asylum dispersal scheme is approved; and (b) the extension of Herefordshire's commitment to resettlement of refugee families is approved, to include Syrian refugee families and those under the VCRS; and (c) the director for adults and wellbeing be authorised, following consultation with the director for children's wellbeing and the relevant cabinet members, to take all operational decisions

	necessary to agree the specific terms of Herefordshire's participation in the general asylum dispersal scheme, to a maximum of 40 individuals at any time, and extend the resettlement of refugees families, from the existing pledge of 60 to a maximum of 95 individuals.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50023843
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To decline to join the general asylum dispersal scheme voluntarily. This is not recommended because this could lead ministers to use their powers to compel Herefordshire to participate in the scheme, potentially leading to higher numbers and reduced discretion and control over the programme. 2. To decline to resettle any further refugees. This option would have no immediate implications for the council. However, on balance it is not recommended because agreeing to take more refugees may reflect well on Herefordshire and carries no tangible economic or community risk for the council. Declining further refugees would also limit the potential for further integration of Syrian and asylum seeker families into their local communities.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	20 December 2017

Councillor:	Date 14 December 2017
Leader of the Council (Councillor AW Johnson)	

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;
- and
- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.