

---

**Report to:** Special Council

---

**Date of Meeting:** 17 September 2015

---

**Subject:** Refugee Crisis and Syrian Resettlement Scheme

---

**Report by:** Head of Housing & Community Safety

---

### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to agree its response to a letter from COSLA attached as Appendix 1, regarding involvement in the Refugee Crisis and Syrian Resettlement Scheme.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council:-

2.1.1. notes the letter from COSLA;

2.1.2. considers the options available to it in the light of the reports to be provided to the Meeting by officers; and

2.1.3. agrees the terms of the Council's response to COSLA.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1. The attached letter from COSLA was received on 7 September 2015 from Mhoraig Green, Policy Manager, COSLA - Migration, Population and Diversity.

- 3.2. The Head of Housing and Community Safety has been identified as the Council's lead contact officer for this matter.

- 3.3. The Head of Housing and Community Safety will provide a verbal report at the Special Meeting on progress and set out potential options for Council to facilitate the Council's response to the request from COSLA.

### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. None.

**5.0 Resource Implications**

5.1. Financial Details

5.2. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.3. Staffing

5.4. There are no staffing implications arising from this report

**6.0 Exempt Reports**

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

**7.0 Declarations**

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

- The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses
- Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive
- People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment
- Our communities are safer
- Vulnerable people and families are supported
- Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
- Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing
- The environment is protected and enhanced for all
- The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

**8.0 Equalities Impact**

8.1. Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes  No

**9.0 Legality**

9.1. It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

**10.0 Appendices**

10.1. Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

- 1. Letter from COSLA dated 7 September 2015

## 11.0 Background Papers


11.1. Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered).

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

### Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Ahsan Khan	Head of Housing & Community Safety	2473

### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Nikki Bridle	Depute Chief Executive	



**Appendix 1** to Report to Special Council of 17 September 2015 (Item 3)



07/09/2015 15:57

To Cosla Contact System Recipient

cc

Subject Refugee Crisis & Syrian Resettlement Scheme - Request for Information

Sent to: Chief Executives; Leaders and Conveners of Admin; Presidential Team

Dear Colleagues,

Since last week we have received a great deal of interest from member councils interested in receiving refugees who have been caught up in the current crisis. The Scottish Government will hold the first meeting of the task group announced at the First Minister's Summit tomorrow afternoon. The Prime Minister has also just announced that the UK will receive up to 20,000 refugees from the crisis, and the First Minister has already indicated that Scotland will take 10% of the total number resettled in the UK. In order to inform our negotiations with both the Scottish Government and the Home Office I would appreciate it if you could let me know **by 2pm tomorrow (Tuesday 8 September)**:

1. Whether your council is actively considering becoming involved in resettling refugees affected by the current crisis; and if so
2. Can you provide us with an early indication of how many people you may be able to accommodate?

This information will allow us to effectively represent our member councils and negotiate to ensure that the local government response is adequately resourced. Information provided to us at this stage will not be shared and will only be used to provide an indication of the likely capacity of Scottish local government to respond to the crisis. Given the fluidity of the situation we recognise that your capacity may go up or down as things develop, and that it may indeed be influenced by what resources Scottish Government and the Home Office can make available.

If you do decide to receive resettled refugees into your area we will work with you to ensure that you receive the support you need to make this work both for the council and for the people who come to live in your area.

I apologise for the very tight deadline. This is necessary because of the very short notice that Scottish Government have given us regarding the first meeting of the task group.

We will keep you up to date as discussions progress.

Many thanks,

**Mhoraig Green**

**Policy Manager**

**COSLA - Migration, Population and Diversity**

Please Save Paper - Do you really need to print this e-mail?

---

Sent to: Chief Executives; Leaders and Conveners of Admin; Presidential Team

Dear colleagues,

There has been a great deal of interest from councils in relation to the Summit on the refugee crisis that the First Minister hosted this afternoon and we just wish to give you an early update on the discussions that took place. A few bullet points below:

- COSLA Community Wellbeing Spokesperson Harry McGuigan attended and spoke about the crucial role of UK, Scottish and local government in tackling the crisis in a coordinated manner. He also discussed the role that local authorities are playing, and are seeking to play going forward, to support the humanitarian effort.
- The First Minister indicated that she wished to do intensive work with local authorities, and other partners in the statutory and voluntary sector, to identify the capacity that exists in Scotland and we are seeking to clarify what this might mean in practice. Capacity is of course difficult to ascertain when we don't yet have a sense of the approach that the UK Government is hoping to take or the level of funding that will be made available to support councils and their partners, whether from the UK or Scottish Government. However, the First Minister did say that the Scottish Government will be providing financial and practical support to local authorities that are able to participate.
- The Scottish Government now intend to convene a task force to look at the issues in more detail and will also be writing to the UK Government to outline the partnership approach that they would wish to take in Scotland.
- Cllr McGuigan will be contacting the First Minister to clarify the points he made at the meeting and the importance of local, Scottish and UK government meeting to discuss the role that the different spheres of government will play. He will also be discussing the crisis at the Community Wellbeing Executive Group that he chairs and which takes place on next Friday.
- We will seek to keep councils informed of any developments in the coming days and weeks. In the meantime, we would be happy to provide you with information with respect to the current Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. We have worked with a number of councils that have expressed interest in the scheme since it was first announced in February 2014 and will continue to provide information to support councils in that regard.

Best wishes,

Andrew Morrison

Policy Manager

COSLA Migration, Population and Diversity Team

49 Bath Street

Glasgow G2 2DL