

Hampshire County Council

Regulation 10 (Urgency) - Notice of a Key Decision on 21 October 2021

REGULATION 10 - KEY DECISIONS

Regulation 10 (general exception) allows for a key decision to be made if it is impracticable for notice of the intention to take a key decision under Regulation 9 to be given 28 clear days in advance of the taking of the decision. Regulation 10 sets out the actions required to be taken in those circumstances which include giving public notice at least five working days before the decision is taken.

Please direct enquiries to:

Democratic and Member Services

Hampshire County Council

Email: members.services@hants.gov.uk

| Subject / Decision | Decision Maker | Decision Due Date | Documents expected in relation to this Decision | Likely Exemption | Officer Contact | Reason for use of Regulation 10 |
|---|--|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Refugee Resettlement and Support Contract Extension</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the extension of the Refugee Resettlement and Support Service Contract and associated spend for a period of 9 months.</p> | <p>Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health</p> | <p>21 Oct 2021</p> | <p>Report and Decision Record</p> | <p>Part exempt</p> <p><i>This appendix is not for publication as it contains exempt information within Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege</i></p> | <p>Stephen White stephen.white@hants.gov.uk</p> | <p>The progress of evacuation from Afghanistan has significantly increased as a result of changes and instability. In turn, the Home Office, alongside the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), announced changes to both the funding arrangements and rights and status of individuals evacuated under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Scheme.</p> <p>Due to the urgency of the evacuation process, Hampshire, along with our District and Borough partners, agreed to increase the number of families they would accept and support from 22</p> |

could be maintained in legal proceedings. Further, it is considered that, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information. While there may be a public interest in disclosing this information, namely that it promotes full transparency it is felt that, on balance, this is outweighed by other factors in favour of maintaining the exemption, namely the need for the County Council to obtain confidential legal advice.

to 35.

Unfortunately, the funding agreements for these individuals is still to be agreed, however, we are needing to work on an in-principle basis to ensure all systems are ready once the agreement has been reached.

The current contract with our support provider for these families is due to expire in February 2022. Initial market engagement had taken place which had shown the market is very limited. Early market engagement has led to it being considered that the market is not operationally in a position to be looking to apply for tendered services, due to the current and ongoing emergency response to Afghan resettlement. In addition, due to the unknown factors in relation to future Home Office funding, it is not known what services we would be looking to re-tender. Therefore, there is a need to extend the existing contract to ensure support is available for this increased number of families whilst we look to ensure we are able to re-tender a service that is fit for purpose in the future. This extension would mean the aggregated contract value would be over £1m and we are therefore seeking Executive Member approval accordingly.

There is a need for an urgent decision on this matter as at present, the support provider does not have the resources available to fulfil their obligations to this increased number of families. They will need to recruit new staff and to do so successfully require the reassurance that they will be providing services beyond February. It is also unlikely that they would be successful in a recruitment campaign for positions that would be limited to 4 months. Without the additional staff,

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | <p>families resettling in Hampshire and/ or existing re-settled families would not receive the support they need in order to resettle in Hampshire and integrate within their local communities. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a decision in relation to this proposed extension to the existing contract and associated funding which would support the recruitment of additional staff as soon as possible to support the families.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|