



Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 2nd November, 2021.

The Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee met on 18-10-2021 and considered the following documents:

- Accommodation in Powys for Asylum Seekers

The Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Welsh Language and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee supported the report's recommendations in offering places to asylum seekers in Powys.
- The Council should seek to ensure that where voluntary organisations assist those that have been resettled, that the Home Office should reimburse those organisations as most voluntary organisations are dependent on grants or voluntary contributions.
- The Committee welcomed that the Housing Service had amended the Impact Assessment for a more equal Wales to now read impact Unknown rather than None as the individual needs of those being resettled are currently not known.
- The Committee suggested that the Council should develop a strategy for resettling individuals under different circumstances in Powys, rather than dealing with circumstances as they arose.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<p>1 That the Council develop a strategy for the resettlement of individuals in Powys</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p><u>Action:</u> An evaluation of all existing resettlement schemes to be carried out alongside an analysis taking into consideration existing resettlements, support networks, housing availability, access to necessary services, employment and future population projections. Once complete consider an overall strategy for appropriate resettlement across Powys.</p>		

	<u>Timescale:</u> Research and recommendations completed by April 2022.		
2 That the Council seek to ensure that any voluntary organisations involved in supporting resettled individuals should be reimbursed by the Home Office.		<p>Partially Accept</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> The Home Office dictates what it considers appropriate use of its funds. As a Local Authority we can request that voluntary organisations are reimbursed for their input, but any decision would rest with the Home Office.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Advice will be sought from the Home Office on whether voluntary organisations can be reimbursed for their involvement in supporting resettled individuals. Discuss and work with PAVO to support the relevant organisations as appropriate.</p> <p><u>Timescale:</u> Request to be made by December 2021.</p>	

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by 02-01-2022

Membership of the Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 18-10-2021:

County Councillors:

M Dorrance, J Charlton, J Pugh, K Roberts-Jones, D Selby, K Lewis, D Evans, L Corfield, D Jones-Poston, G Jones, S Williams, K Curry.