

# **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CORPORATE SERVICES OSC**

## **REPORT TO THE CABINET**

**10 MAY 2016**

### **Asylum Seekers and Refugee Dispersal**

Councillor Allan Hepple: Cabinet Member – Economic Growth presented the report to the Committee on 26 April 2016. (Philip Soderquest and Julie Young were present to respond to comments and questions raised by the Committee).

On the completion of the presentation, the Chairman agreed to allow Councillor Bernard Pidcock to address the Committee. Councillor Pidcock sought the support of the Committee to ensure that the Citizens Advice service be invited to future meetings of the multi-agency working group to assist in the dispersal process. Members welcomed this suggestion and agreed that it was essential to involve the voluntary sector as far as possible, in enabling asylum seekers and refugees to settle in the community.

With regard to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, members were concerned that the funding allocation after year 5 was uncertain, which could lead to financial difficulties for resettled families and individuals after that period.

The Committee felt that communications on this issue should be managed sensitively and positively, so that both members and the public had a full understanding of the scheme, thereby allowing asylum seekers and refugees to better integrate into the community.

The Committee **agreed** that the Cabinet be advised that, subject to the comments outlined above, they supported the recommendations in the report.

**COUNCILLOR ALYSON WALLACE**

**CHAIRMAN**

---