

9. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update on the refugee resettlement programme and related issues.

The Depute Chief Executive explained that the council had submitted accommodation details to the Home Office and was currently waiting receipt of the case summaries. Officers were expecting early confirmation and on receipt the council would review in order to determine the range of support services required to accommodate the refugees offered by the Home Office.

The Home Office had confirmed that flights were scheduled for February 2016 and March 2016, with further flights during the rest of the calendar year. As previously advised the lead time was normally six weeks and as such officers were currently planning for arrivals in March 2016.

There were many aspects and issues to consider for the resettlement and integration of the refugees arriving in Scotland for a period of at least five years and local services and communities would also need to be supported as they received, welcomed and integrated refugees.

The Scottish Refugee Council offered specialist support, services and consultancy in the settling and integration of refugees in Scotland and officers had held preliminary discussions on a range of services and support that would be available from the Scottish Refugee Council. Discussions would also be held with other Voluntary Sector Organisations following receipt of the case summaries.

It was recommended that Council Executive note the update on the refugee resettlement programme.

Decision

To note the terms of the report