

Agenda Item 11

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Date	25 th October 2016

Subject	Motion 2/2016
RECOMMENDATIONS	
The Executive is asked to consider the motion and to advise the Council to accept the motion, reject the motion, or to accept an amended motion.	

The Council has the authority to determine the Recommendations.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The following motion was submitted to the Council by Councillor Margaret Cooksey:

“This Council notes that:

- A. With a reported 65 million displaced people worldwide, the refugee crisis is the worst since the end of World War 2;
- B. Many of these refugees are risking their lives to reach safety in Europe and to cross into the UK; meantime many vulnerable women and children are living in destitution at "The Jungle" outside Calais;
- C. Britain has a proud history of welcoming refugees most of whom have gone on to integrate with British society and contribute to our economy; these include Russian and Eastern European Jews in the 1900s, the kindertransport in the 1930s and the Ugandan Asians in the 1970s;
- D. The Government's resettlement programme for Syrian refugees caters for far fewer refugees than many other Northern European countries;
- E. the UK already has its own border controls with stringent checks on those refugees who are allowed to participate in the Government's resettlement programme;
- F. There are many voluntary groups (including several in Mole Valley and surrounding districts) offering support to refugees who have arrived here.

The Council is proud to have agreed to take part in the Government's resettlement plan, but, in the light of the notes above, considers that this is not enough. It also recognises that there are opportunities for synergy between its own arrangements to support refugees under the Government's scheme and the efforts of local voluntary groups. On the one hand refugees supported by voluntary groups would benefit from access to assistance with language training, finding work and accommodation; on the other hand refugees from the Government scheme would

benefit from the social integration and opportunities for mutual assistance offered through voluntary groups.

The Council agrees to:

- i. Ask our local Members of Parliament to lobby the Government to accelerate its current resettlement plan, to accept more refugees in this time of crisis including some of the most vulnerable people from The Jungle and to provide additional funding for local authorities who agree to accommodate them;
 - ii. Accommodate additional refugees in Mole Valley;
 - iii. Increase cooperation with local voluntary groups to ensure that services can be shared between those refugees arriving under the Government's scheme and those that have made their own way to the UK.”
- 1.2 The motion was referred to the Executive for consideration and to report back to Council on 6th December 2016 with its recommendation.

2. OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Executive is asked to consider the motion and to advise the Council to either:-
- (a) accept the motion
 - (b) reject the motion, or
 - (c) accept an amended motion.

3. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Monitoring Officer commentary - The Monitoring Officer confirms that all relevant legal implications have been taken into account

S151 Officer commentary - The S151 Officer confirms that the relevant financial implications have been considered in this report

Legal Implications – None arising from considering the motion.

Financial Implications – None arising from considering this motion

Reputational Implications – None arising from considering this motion

Risk Implications - None arising from considering the motion.

Equalities Implications – None arising from considering the motion.

Employment Issues – None arising from considering the motion.

Sustainability Issues – None arising from considering the motion.

Consultation -

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.