



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government



Home Office

To all local Council Leaders

26 November 2015

Dear Council Leaders,

### **Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme – Funding Update**

Further to my letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015, I am writing to update you on the Programme and confirm the funding that has now been secured through the Spending Review process to assist with local authority costs.

The Government has committed to resettling 20,000 Syrian refugees in the lifetime of this Parliament. There has been a fantastic response from local authorities and we can all be proud that since the start of the Syrian conflict, the UK has been at the forefront of the humanitarian response. It is absolutely right that Britain continues to play its part by providing sanctuary to those most in need.

Fifty-five local authorities will be welcoming Syrian refugees into their communities before Christmas and many more have expressed an interest in taking refugees in the coming months and years. They have done so on the basis that the first twelve months of a refugee's resettlement costs are funded on a tariff basis by Government using the overseas aid budget and a guarantee that funding would be available for years two to five. The Chancellor has now confirmed that the Government will provide additional funding to assist with costs we believe will be incurred by local authorities in years two to five.

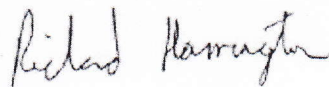
Year two to five funding will be allocated on a tariff basis over four years, tapering from £5,000 per person in year two to £1,000 per person in year five. Based upon the majority of responses provided by local authorities we estimate this additional funding could assist with most of the expected costs in years two to five. This funding includes support for integration such as additional English language training as well as social care. We also intend to provide a special cases fund to provide additional support for the most vulnerable persons and will work with local government on how the fund will be administered. We intend to keep the general level of funding under review.

Our experience of welcoming Syrian refugees so far has been that the majority have arrived in family units, which include people who are of working age. We expect local authorities will work closely with the Department for Work and Pension to focus on getting people into work. We also hope that you will be able to take advantage of the community sponsorship schemes we are developing to allow individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to support refugees directly, especially those schemes which focus on helping refugees find employment in the UK.

We will continue to provide local authorities with support and guidance including sharing resettlement best practice and case studies, detailed information on the cohort from UNHCR and advice about the cultural, ethnic and religious groupings from Syria.

Local authorities are central to the success of the programme and I am extremely grateful for all expressions of interest received so far. I am keen that we continue to build on this momentum. We all want to bring refugees from the Syrian conflict to the UK as quickly as possible. This is a priority for the Government and for the Prime Minister. I welcome your ongoing support and commitment. It is critical that we work together to ensure we resettle 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees.

If you have not yet discussed resettling Syrian refugees with us I would be grateful if your authority could provide contact details either to your local Strategic Migration Partnership or to my team by emailing [ResettlementGoldCommand@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ResettlementGoldCommand@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).



**Richard Harrington MP**