

Proposed Housing Allocation Scheme Addendum
for Afghan Resettlement Programmes
5 October 2021

Background

In response to the collapse of the Afghan government following the advance of the Taliban, the UK Government initiated an emergency response to assist Afghan nationals who had helped the armed forces, along with others who are likely to suffer persecution under the new regime.

The emergency response includes the relocation and resettlement of Afghan households under two schemes:

1. Those brought to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) which consists of Afghan Locally Engaged Staff and their families
2. Those brought to the UK under the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

The Government have asked Local Authorities to assist with offers of accommodation and support.

Waverley Borough Council has agreed to secure five to ten homes, in the Borough, to assist Afghan refugees, through the Home Office resettlement programmes. To do this in a timely and responsive manner, if suitable housing cannot be found in the private rented sector, it is necessary to amend Waverley's Housing Allocation Scheme to specify that such assistance can be made outside of the usual allocation processes of registering on the Council's Housing Register and bidding under the Choice Based Lettings scheme.

Addendum to Allocation Scheme

To include the following proposed wording in the Allocation Scheme:

Afghan Refugees 2021

Following approval from the Council's Executive on 5 October 2021, the Council reserves the right to directly allocate between five to ten social housing properties (Council or Housing Association) over a two-year period, to Afghan Refugees brought to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). In these circumstances the properties will not be advertised and will be direct lets. All direct allocations will need to be approved by the Head of Housing Operations.