

Council 16 July, 2015

Resettling of Syrian Refugees

Labour Group to move:

- 1 Council notes that over 6 million people have been displaced in Syria and over 3 million people have fled to nearby countries.
- 2 Council notes that, as of March 2015, 187 Syrian people had been resettled in the UK through the government's "vulnerable persons relocation scheme", while Germany and Sweden have resettled nearly 100,000 Syrian people between them.
- 3 Council notes that the organisation Citizens UK is providing assistance to Councils in the UK to help resettle Syrian refugees, with no costs falling on the Councils and no requirement to provide social housing.
- 4 Council notes that there are eight Councils that have publicly committed to resettling refugees including Kingston, Birmingham, Islington and Glasgow.
- 5 Council notes that thousands of displaced Syrian people have attempted to cross the Mediterranean to seek asylum and have died in the process.
- 6 Council believes that the UK should be resettling more Syrian refugees than it currently is, and that it is our moral responsibility to do all we can as a Council and as a country to help to alleviate this humanitarian crisis.
- 7 Council believes that without all countries resettling their fair share of Syrian refugees, we cannot hope to stem the tide of illegal migration that has resulted in children and vulnerable people being detained in costly and illegal detention centres in the UK.
- 8 Council resolves to write to Citizens UK to express our willingness to explore settling 50 Syrian refugees in our area.