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**Revised New Arrivals Strategy for Leicester 2008**

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**Report of the Director of Partnership, Performance and Policy**

**1. Report Purpose**

This report seeks the support of Cabinet for the revised objectives in the city's New Arrivals Strategy and the proposed addendum to the strategy. The changes were agreed by the Leicester Partnership Executive in September 2008.

**2. Introduction**

The New Arrivals Strategy (NAS) was agreed by Leicester Partnership in 2006 to provide a framework for organisations and individuals to achieve the following vision:

*"The smooth settlement and harmonious integration of new arrivals in Leicester to achieve maximum quality of life"*

The Refugee and Asylum Seekers Multi-Agency Forum (MAF) instigated the strategy. The previous Leicester Partnership Development Team supported the development of the New Arrivals Strategy by working with a strategy sub-group of the MAF, and in consultation with, and the support of, the Leicester Equality and Diversity Partnership, the Leicester Partnership, and the Leicester Community Cohesion Project Team.

For the purpose of the Strategy the definition of a new arrival in 2006 was defined as:

*"Asylum seekers, refugees, migrant workers, EU nationals who have chosen to make Leicester their home" (O'Neill 2004)*

The New Arrivals Strategy sits under the city's Community Cohesion Strategy.

**3. Report**

- 3.1 At the time of developing the NAS the key concerns for the city in terms of new arrivals was asylum seekers and refugees. Recent changes in the scale and nature of immigration, most recently, workers from the new member states of the European Union (EU), has resulted in a rapidly changing map of diversity across the city and brought with it new challenges, in particularly for our public services. For example, the impact of 'churn' in schools, e.g. the

pressures on translation services and mid-term arrivals, and the increased use in our maternity services. Furthermore, consideration was not given to the position of 'evacuees' in relation the plan.

### Review of the Action Plan

- 3.2 In June 2007 the New Arrivals Strategy Group (NASG) was set-up to take the strategic lead on behalf of the Community Cohesion Forum on new arrivals and the delivery of the vision set out in the New Arrivals Strategy.
- 3.3 The timely review of the NAS action plan, as envisaged in the strategy, provided the opportunity to rebalance the action plan to meet the current challenges the city faces in terms of all new arrivals, in particularly EU migrants.
- 3.4 However, while undertaking a review of the action plan NASG recognised there was also need to update the strategic objectives behind the strategy so that they focussed on clearer outcomes. The revised objectives as agreed by NASG are as follows:
  1. To ensure a favourable policy context for the integration of New Arrivals in Leicester,
  2. To ensure the effective coordination of services between national, regional and local level,
  3. To have local services that are responsive to the needs of New Arrivals, and
  4. A city where the public have a positive image of New Arrivals and their Community.
- 3.5 The original objectives are listed in Appendix 1 for information only.

### UK and International Evacuees

- 3.6 Following concerns raised at the Leicester Partnership in June 2008, consideration was given to inclusion of 'evacuees' as a specific category in the New Arrivals Strategy.
- 3.7 The New Arrivals Strategy provides a framework for organisations and individuals to achieve the strategies vision "the smooth settlement and harmonious integration of new arrivals in Leicester to achieve maximum quality of life". Though evacuees are not mentioned in the definition used by the strategy the principles that it promotes are just as relevant to those organisations and individuals who may work with the range of evacuee groups who may arrive in the city.
- 3.8 Evacuees, be it from within the UK or internationally, are covered by a number of national and local plans and strategies that seek to address their immediate and humanitarian needs, as well as any benefits they may be entitled to based their immigration status. Locally we have a Local Reliance Forum Influx Plan and a Humanitarian Assistant Plan that seek to address the immediate needs

of evacuees. The New Arrivals Strategy would compliment these providing the framework for their smooth settlement and harmonious integration into social and cultural life of Leicester for this group of people.

- 3.9 Following consideration on how best to reference 'evacuees' in the strategy it was proposed, rather than revising the whole strategy, that a shorten version (see Appendix 2) be drawn-up. This would set out a revised definition for new arrivals, the current vision, the revised strategic objectives, and the delivery and performance management for the strategy. The principles as it out in the original strategy would remain.
- 3.10 At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 the Leicester Partnership Executive agreed the changes to the strategy and the introduction of a revised 2008 summary as an addendum to the 2006 strategy. This to be widely promoted.

#### **4. Recommendations**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Endorse the revised objectives for the Leicester New Arrival Strategy set out in 3.4,
- (ii) Endorse the proposed revised shorten version of the New Arrivals Strategy and the new definition for new arrivals (Appendix 2), and

#### **5. Financial and Legal Implications**

##### Financial Implications

There is no specific budget provision to support the Action Plan for the implementation of the draft New Arrival Strategy, although existing Service budgets may already be used to achieve some of the objectives in the strategy. The implementation of each proposal needs to be reviewed, in order to assess whether it would require additional budget or whether it could indeed be met from existing budgets.

*Andy Morley, Chief Accountant (CXO&RAD), Leicester City Council, 252 7404*

##### Legal Implications

Action/expenditure hosted through LCC will have to comply with (a) the Councils legal powers and (b) the Councils Constitution especially contract procedure rules.

The relevant powers held by the Council appear to be "well being" (regard must be had to the Councils Community Strategy in exercising these powers) and s142 Local Government Act 1972 (provision of information relating to matters affecting local government).

The Council may also be subject to limitations in the exercise of its functions, for example the provision of housing accommodation to "persons from abroad"

Such matters will need to be borne in mind as the action plan and its implementation develops.  
*Joanna Bunting, Legal Services Division (RAD), Leicester City Council, 2526450*

**6. Author**

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23 September 2008

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	N/A
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)

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# New Arrivals Strategy for Leicester 2006

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*Helping make Leicester a home for everyone*

## **Original Strategic Objectives**

1. Influence government policy so that the context for successful integration of new arrivals is more favourable.
2. Establish effective co-ordination between national, regional and local level.
3. Achieve effective local service planning to improve attention to New Arrivals' needs.
4. Significantly improve the amount and quality of data on new arrival communities.
5. Increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to new arrivals.
6. Improve public awareness and public image of new arrival communities.
7. Actively work to address the problem of destitution of those who have come through the asylum process.

Agreed in 2006 by Leicester Partnership

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## New Arrivals Strategy for Leicester 2008

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### *Helping make Leicester a home for everyone*

Leicester has and long and proud reputation as a welcoming city for new communities, however, recent changes in the scale and nature of immigration, most recently, workers from the new member states of the European Union (EU), has resulted in a rapidly changing map of diversity across the city and brought with it new challenges, in particularly for our public services. This update on the city's New Arrivals Strategy maintains the principles of the original strategy in 2006, while reflecting the new challenges.

### **DEFINITION OF A NEW ARRIVAL**

For the purpose of this Strategy the definition of a new arrival is:

***“Asylum seekers, refugees, evacuees, migrant workers and EU nationals who have chosen to make Leicester their home”***

### **VISION FOR NEW ARRIVALS**

The Strategy provides a framework for organisations and individuals that come into contact with new arrivals to contribute to the success of integration in Leicester, to achieve the following vision:

***“The smooth settlement and harmonious integration of new arrivals in Leicester to achieve maximum quality of life”***

The intention is to benefit all people in Leicester through achieving this Vision.

### **KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

1. to ensure a favourable policy context for the integration of New Arrivals in Leicester,
2. to ensure the effective coordination of services between national, regional and local level,
3. to have local services that are responsive to the needs of New Arrivals, and
4. a city where the public have a positive image of New Arrivals and their Community.

## **DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

Responsibility sits collectively with all relevant providers. However, the overview rests with the Leicester Partnership Executive Board and the New Arrivals Strategy Group. The Director of Partnership and the Policy and Performance Team have a co-ordinating role.

An Action Plan has been developed to deliver this New Arrivals Strategy that will be reviewed regularly by the New Arrivals Strategy Group.

Cllr Ross Willmott  
Leader, Leicester City Council

Philip Parkinson  
Chair, Leicester Partnership



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