



## A Guide to Community Sponsorship and Local Authorities

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### Points that's LA's need to consider:

- The Home Office has appointed national / regional organisations to help in the training of volunteers, check application forms before submission and provide information and guidance at all stages of the application process.
- The responsibility for assessing and approving applications from community groups and managing the community sponsorship process lies with the Home Office.
- The Home Office continue to undertake a pre-approval visit and subsequent monitoring visits, inviting both county and City/District Councils to participate.
- In two tier authorities, the Home Office will continue to require the consent of both authorities as part of the CS groups application requirement.
- It's important to note, in the very unlikely event that a sponsor agreement breaks down, the Local Authority will have the responsibility to step in to support the resettled family.

### Consent

- What is meant by consent and what are authorities being asked to consent to?

The Home Office states:

*“Local authorities need to consent to each community sponsorship arrangement in their area. This is because local authorities will need to consider the local impacts of additional resettled families, such as on local services and capacity. Local authorities will also want to satisfy themselves that they have no objection to your sponsor group supporting a resettled family”*

Source: [Community Sponsorship Guidance for prospective sponsors](#)

The Home Office also state:

*“The prospective sponsor must obtain written evidence from the local authority (the format to be determined by the local authority area e.g. may differ between unitary and two- tier authorities) that they consent to the approval of the application. Typically, this consent is provided by the Chief Executive Officer, Director or Councillor with the authority to consent on behalf of the local authority. It is open to the local authority to decide on how consent will be considered locally.”*

Source: [Community Sponsorship Guidance for Local Authorities](#)

In summary:

- LA's are giving their consent for the CS group to submit an application to the Home Office;
- LA's need to consider their current capacity and the local impact of additional resettled families;
- LA's are giving their consent that the CS group can operate as a CS group in the area; and
- The consent needs to be provided by an individual with sufficient authority.

### Tips

- Groups are encouraged to contact their Local Authorities (LA) as soon as possible in their planning process in order to develop relationships and access services that are available in the area. Some LA's have a dedicated team/named worker for the VPRS/UK Resettlement Scheme. Please retain all communication with LA as you may need to include this as part of your application to the home office.
- Ask for confirmation of the LA's CS consent process, and in a two-tier authority how this is managed. You will need consent in writing, on letter head and signed by an individual with sufficient authority. An email will not suffice.
- Seek contact with other approved CS groups in your area (if available) and explore how they obtained their consent and the process they followed
- LA's may want to meet with you and review your draft application and may wish to provide advice on how you can strengthen your application, but it's the Home Office that provides final agreement on your application.
- You may be the first CS group in your area so you may need to signpost the LA to guidance available from the Home Office or RESET about providing consent
- If you do not receive a response from your LA, you may wish to call or email instead. If you are still unable to engage the LA you may wish to speak with the Home Office, RESET or your regional CS organisation.
- You may wish to engage/communicate with your County, District or Parish councillors about your intention to resettle a family locally. At a future

point, it may be part of an LA's consent process to obtain views from elected members so contact with your CS group from the outset may prove helpful here.

- You should speak to the LA about the admissions process for any children that are resettled by your CS group. Some LA's will support your group in making an admissions application and others will ask your group to undertake this in full. You should also ask the LA about "Reimbursement for Education Costs" and how the funding will be drawn from the Home Office and passed onto the receiving school(s). This may be best positioned after receiving consent from the LA.
- You should also speak to the LA about "Reimbursement for Additional Funding to Support English Language Provision for Adult Refugees" and how the funding will be drawn from the home office and passed onto your CS group. Again, this may be best positioned after receiving consent from the LA.

#### Key Documents / Guidance

- *Advice for Local Authorities about Community Sponsorship*  
<https://resetuk.org/community-sponsorship/support/local-authority>
- *Community Sponsorship - Guidance for prospective sponsors*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/764990/2018-12-04\\_Community\\_Sponsorship\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764990/2018-12-04_Community_Sponsorship_Guidance.pdf)
- *Community Sponsorship - Guidance for Local Authorities*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/764991/2018-12-01\\_Community\\_Sponsorship\\_LA\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764991/2018-12-01_Community_Sponsorship_LA_guidance.pdf)
- *Funding Instruction for local authorities in the support of the United Kingdom's Resettlement Schemes (Financial Year 2020-2021)*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877261/2020-2021\\_LA\\_Funding\\_Instruction\\_v1.0\\_-\\_Final1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877261/2020-2021_LA_Funding_Instruction_v1.0_-_Final1.pdf)