



To the Council Leaders and Chief Executive Officers of:  
West Sussex County Council  
Adur District Council  
Arun District Council  
Chichester District Council  
Crawley Borough Council  
Horsham District Council  
Mid Sussex District Council  
Worthing Borough Council

24th August 2021

Dear Council Leaders and Chief Executives

We write this letter on behalf of all elected Liberal Democrats on West Sussex County Council and District & Borough Councils in the county.

West Sussex is a county that welcomes and supports refugees. There are Afghan nationals already living in West Sussex who have arrived this year through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy. This follows the resettlement of 207 Syrian people in the county since 2016 under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. We are fully supportive of the work being done by our councils to provide housing, welfare and community support for these families.

However, with the worsening situation in Afghanistan, the Government's offer to resettle 5,000 people this year is insufficient particularly given it is not just Afghan locally employed staff at risk from the resurgent Taliban, but also many vulnerable women, men and children. People cannot wait and we should be looking to resettle 20,000 people this year alone.

We know that, like us, you feel the responsibility Britain has towards the people who have worked with us in Afghanistan and those vulnerable women, men and children for whom the return of the Taliban is a risk to their lives.

While decisions on the numbers to be taken and additional funding sit with the government, it is in our power as local councils and local councillors to make the case that we can and should welcome more Afghan refugees and provide the necessary housing and support locally. So we write to you today to reiterate our support for welcoming refugees to West Sussex, and ask that you engage with our MPs and the Home Office to push for increasing the numbers of refugees being resettled this year and increasing the resources we need to support them.

Yours Sincerely

Kirsty Lord (Group Leader, West Sussex County Council)  
Kate O'Kelly (Deputy Group Leader, West Sussex County Council)

## WEST SUSSEX LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



James Walsh (Group Leader, Arun District Council)  
Matt Stanley (Deputy Group Leader, Arun District Council)  
Adrian Moss (Group Leader, Chichester District Council)  
Jonathan Brown (Deputy Group Leader, Chichester District Council)  
Matt Allen (Acting Group Leader, Horsham District Council)  
Alison Bennett (Group Leader, Mid Sussex District Council)  
Robert Eggleston (Deputy Group Leader, Mid Sussex District Council)  
Martin McCabe (Group Leader, Worthing Borough Council)  
Hazel Thorpe (Deputy Group Leader, Worthing Borough Council)