

Supporting Syrian refugees

A report is being developed on how Council could support, or assist the Federal and State Governments in responding to the Syrian refugee crisis.

The report is the result of a Notice of Motion submitted by Cr Mohya Davies, carried unanimously at the last Council meeting.

Cr Davies expressed concern over the current crisis and although unsure at what support Council could provide at this stage, was eager to follow the advice of the report, expected to be presented at the next Council meeting on 25 November.

“The relevant bodies just need to know that we are here to help,” Cr Davies said. “This Notice of Motion ensures we play our part in doing whatever we can to help these vulnerable people.”

In support of the Notice of Motion, Cr James Fawcett urged Council to carefully consider its resources in preparation of the report.

“I understand these people need help, but there are also a number of local people who are struggling to get houses and work,” he explained. “These decisions are not as simple as sticking your hand up, they have to be properly assessed.”

Migration and refugee movements in the Mediterranean countries have gained unprecedented momentum in recent months and the report will investigate exactly what support can be available and how Council can best work with the Government.

“We share the public's distress and deep concern at the plight of the Syrian people and it's comforting to see other councils offering aid, support and sanctuary to so many of the most vulnerable and badly affected,” Cr Davies explained.

“This Notice of Motion means our Council is ready to play its role in helping the victims of this appalling crisis.”

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