

**Meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council  
24 September 2015**

**Notice of petition for debate**

The following e-petition, containing 108 signatures, has been received by Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer:

*“We petition the Council to:*

- (a) state its willingness to accommodate a proportionate number of refugees;*
- (b) approach relevant government departments and other local authorities to develop a coordinated scheme for accommodating refugees;*
- (c) urge the government to participate in EU-wide approaches to helping refugees.*

*The Civil war in Syria is causing one of the worst humanitarian crises of recent times. A consequence of this is that many people are seeking refuge in other countries, including Europe. The UK is accepting very few Syrian refugees. The government established a Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme but only 216 people have been resettled under the scheme. A further 4,000 have been given refugee status. Over 4 million people have already fled Syria.”*

This e-petition exceeds the 100 signatures required for a petition to be reported to and debated at a meeting of the Council. The following process will therefore be followed at the meeting to facilitate debate:

- (i) Petition organiser (or a representative) to present the petition for up to 3 minutes;
- (ii) Relevant Portfolio Holder invited to respond to the petition for up to 3 minutes;
- (iii) Council to debate the petition and make a decision to either:
  - vote in support of the petition;
  - vote against the petition;
  - note the petition;
  - refer the petition to another body, Portfolio Holder or officer for consideration;
  - agree any other appropriate action.