

Motion – District of Sanctuary initiative

This Council believes that:

Everyone deserves to live in safety, free from fear and discrimination.

Swale should be a place where refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, supported, and valued as members of our community.

Working in partnership with local organisations, voluntary groups, and residents will strengthen community cohesion and mutual understanding.

The “District of Sanctuary” initiative aligns with this Council’s values of equality, inclusion, and social justice.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Pledge support for the principles and aims of the District of Sanctuary scheme.

Work in partnership with the national City of Sanctuary network and local voluntary and community sector organisations to pursue official recognition as a Borough of Sanctuary.

Refer to the Housing Health and Community committee to consider:

Appointing a lead councillor and officer to coordinate sanctuary-related initiatives and to liaise with the City of Sanctuary movement.

Reviewing the Council’s own policies and practices to ensure accessibility and fairness for people seeking sanctuary.

Promoting awareness and understanding among council staff, service providers, schools, and the wider community.

Celebrating Refugee Week and other events that foster inclusion and awareness.

Encourage local partners, including schools, health services, businesses, and community groups to join the movement and adopt “Sanctuary” principles.

Report back to Council within 12 months on progress toward formal recognition as a Borough of Sanctuary.

Proposed by Councillor Hannah Perkin

Seconded by Councillor Alastair Gould