

Strategy and Resources Committee
Meeting on 4 March 2024

To consider the following Notice of Motion referred by Council on 17 January 2024:

City of Sanctuary UK is a national movement to ensure the UK is a welcoming place of safety for all people fleeing violence and persecution.

This motion recognises that people seeking sanctuary not only need to have their basic needs met but also deserve our compassion and support. North Devon Council is already central in supporting Government-led refugee relocation programmes in our communities, partnering with the Home Office, Ministry of Defence, DHLUC and local charities to deliver resettlement through: Homes for Ukraine; the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP); the UKRS Community Sponsorship scheme, and the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

In becoming a member of the City of Sanctuary network, North Devon Council will benefit from the sharing of best practice, resources and initiatives amongst a national network.

Becoming a member of the City of Sanctuary network will signal an ongoing commitment within North Devon Council towards spreading a culture of compassion and welcome to migrants and refugees, both across its operations and out into our communities.

Consequently, the Council resolves to:

1. Join the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network.
2. Work to implement the City of Sanctuary pledges through its actions and policies, and with its partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors.
3. Consider working towards the full City of Sanctuary award.
4. Acknowledge the contribution of refugees and people seeking sanctuary in North Devon.”