

Amendment: Proposed by Councillor Herbert, Seconder Councillor Kevin Price
(Additional text underlined and in red)

Further amendment: Proposed by Councillor Gillespie, Seconder Councillor Herbert
(Additional text underlined and in blue)

Motion Item 7c: City of Sanctuary

This Council wishes to assist the most vulnerable people hoping to come to Cambridge to seek refuge and sanctuary from war and persecution.

The UN refugee agency has asked EU Member States to immediately take 200,000 additional refugees to lessen the humanitarian crisis. In response, the EU has adopted a quota system which the UK Government has refused to participate in. Rather than the 25,000 that would represent its 'fair share' of migrants (spreading this across the country would mean about 50 refugees being accommodated in a city the size of Cambridge), the Prime Minister has instead announced that his Government would make provision for only 4,000 each year.

We recognise the strong support local communities, voluntary bodies, faith groups and others in Cambridge already give to those seeking refuge and sanctuary. The strength of public feeling was well expressed in the two 'Cambridge Welcomes Refugees' marches on the 5th of September and the 10th of October. Over 500 people in Cambridge have signed a petition saying "We are willing to house Syrian refugees; please rescue more of those fleeing the conflict.

The Council supports the initiative it has taken in responding to the Government invitation in September to assist refugees including;

the Council's written commitment to provide housing in Cambridge for at least 50 Syrian refugees, despite the detail of the Government plan changing week by week

discussions now underway with the Home Office on the early resettlement of several refugee families in Cambridge in our council housing, supported by the county council and voluntary agencies.

This council pledges to become a City of Sanctuary, and accordingly to call on the Leader and Executive to:

Work with the City of Sanctuary network, the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership, and also local groups like [Refugees Cambridge](#) [Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign](#) to develop a plan that would allow refugees to be housed within the City in volunteer's homes, through schemes similar to that used in Oxford('Host Oxford'). provide assistance to Syrian refugees arriving in Cambridge, in Cambridge, and other refugees in the future

~~Consider what support~~ Endorse the response by the Mayor who has committed to assist a planned benefit event, including a concert, by the Cambridge Calais group so assistance can be given to donation efforts, providing supplies to refugees in Calais.

~~Ask Cambridge Live if it would hold a benefit concert, raising more money for supplies, and promoting the benefits that multiculturalism brings to our society.~~

Review its own budgets, services and policies to check that these are adequately supporting [Syrian](#) refugees under the Government programme and present no impediment to the accommodation in private council homes of refugees.

Apply for Government funding under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation (SVPR), the Gateway Protection Programme (GPP) and European Refugee Fund (ERF) schemes to help support its efforts to provide housing for refugees.

~~Write to~~ Expand on the existing initiative by Councillor Peter Sarris, Lead Councillor for Homelessness, with the City's Universities encouraging them to consider extending their funded studentships and other support to include more places specifically for refugees.