

Appendix 1

Summary of the agreed motion to Council and activities that have taken place to date.

1. On 23 September 2015 Council agreed a motion on Oxford as City of Sanctuary.
2. The information below summarises the motion and sets out the activities that have been undertaken so far.
 - a) *Continue to coordinate the work of local charities, voluntary bodies and the public authorities in the Oxford area to ensure that there are effective procedures in place to welcome refugees of all ages and to offer appropriate housing and support.*

The City Council has established a regular open meeting for all interested parties to attend where they can receive information and updates of what we are doing in Oxfordshire and Oxford. There have been 2 meetings to date and the next meeting is due on 8 December 2015.

The City Council has established a Voluntary, Community and Faith Coordination Group. The group will act as an effective communication and liaison link to the local authority and help shape their response on Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The group will act as a communication link to the not for profit, voluntary and community sector and coordinate voluntary, community and faith group activities. There have been 2 meetings to date and the next meeting is due on 2 December 2015.

There have also been individual meetings with City of Sanctuary, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action and Asylum Welcome.

- b) *Continue to encourage people in Oxford and the wider county to make financial donations to support the charities and voluntary bodies involved*
The City Council has a page on its website setting out how people can donate and support charities. The Council has received a number of offers directly and these have been signposted accordingly.
 - c) *Ensure that its policies and procedures are as effective as possible in supporting refugees and facilitating the accommodation of refugees in private homes.*
There has been a meeting with Housing Officers and Asylum Welcome with regard to housing refugees and asylum seekers. It has been agreed that there will be on-going discussions.
 - d) *Work with the Home Office to implement the extended Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme*
The City Council has been working with the Home Office to implement the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme. This is set out in more detail below.

- e) *Write to the City's Universities encouraging them to consider extending their funded studentships to include more places specifically for refugees*
The City Council has written to Universities and Businesses to consider ways in which they can support refugees and asylum seekers. There have been a range of offers and there has been a meeting of Officers and the University of Oxford Refugee Studies Centre.
- f) *Write to the City's MPs expressing concern over the UK Government's weak response to the refugee crisis and asking them to lobby for the UK to welcome its fair share of refugees*