

Appendix A

Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2025 concerning the Council of Sanctuary Framework. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council establishes and reports on clear Key Performance Indicators for its action plan, providing annual updates to the Scrutiny Committee to monitor its progress and ensure accountability.	Yes	The Council acknowledge the need for clear Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to sit behind the action plan and officers are in the process of developing these and agree to incorporating the KPI's and updates into an annual report to the Scrutiny Committee and cabinet to monitor progress and ensure accountability. Officers have developed the action plan embedded within the framework document, in conjunction with internal and external sanctuary partnership groups and the Council will continue to work in partnership to develop and monitor the KPI's.
2) That the Council updates the document's text on National Policy Challenges to include contextual information that recognises the evolving policy environment and anticipates potential changes to national policy.	No	The Council of Sanctuary Framework acknowledges the challenges of national policy changes as detailed within the <i>Key Challenges</i> section. As a member of the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network, Oxford City gains access to range of resources, updates and training network which focus on key policy changes. Action 3.2 focuses on ensuring that Officers are able to update and learn relevant policy changes through the Network and be able to respond accordingly on what the impact will be on the local sanctuary seeking and wider population and what solutions may need to be implemented as well as acting a leader to influence central government policy changes.

		<p>Within the recommendation to cabinet, within the Council of Sanctuary Cabinet Report, Officers have requested delegated power to make changes to the action to keep it updates to developments and changes. This will ensure that Officers are able to be dynamically respond to changing circumstances which includes governmental policy changes.</p> <p>There is an understanding that Council staff need to keep up to date on relevant policy changes and also best practice in working with people seeking sanctuary. This is reflected in actions 2.2 and 2.3 which are focused on increasing staff training to increase knowledge and skills to be able to improve how Officers can work holistically with people seeking sanctuary.</p>
<p>∞ 3) That the Council acknowledges the prevalence of anti-migrant violence by adding to the Key Challenges section of the document a list of specific responses and preventative measures addressing this key issue.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The Council has shown leadership by becoming an accredited Local Authority of Sanctuary and met key criteria to show how the Council is embedding principles of welcome and inclusion in Council business and policy. The Council wants to go further than business as usual and this is represented in the Council of Sanctuary Framework and action plan.</p> <p>A key focus of the Council of Sanctuary action plan is to set out how the Council intends on working with people with lived experience and the local community. The framework is aligned to existing Council strategies which aim to foster positive inclusivity amongst all residents including the <i>Thriving Communities and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy</i> and the <i>Anti-Racism Charter</i>.</p>

		<p>The Council acknowledges the anti-migrant violence is a significant concern. As stated in answer to point 3, the council has made a recommendation to cabinet within the Council of Sanctuary Cabinet Report for Officers to have requested delegated power to make changes to the action to keep it updates to developments and changes.</p> <p>Whilst the Council does not agree to make immediate changes to the framework document and action plan, the Council can commit to ensuring that the issue of anti-migrant sentiment and violence is reviewed over the next 6 months and if necessary the actions are amended accordingly in line with the delegated responsibility. This is to ensure that the issue is properly considered and any relevant actions are put in place and to avoid duplication with existing Council strategies as listed above.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges the safety of people seeking safety and local residents is of the utmost importance and existing actions are embedded within the current action plan to reflect this. For example action point 1.3 focuses on improve the rights and safeguarding risks of migrants with a specific focus on modern day slavery. Action point 3.1 commits to working in partnership and promoting other institutions to become organisations of sanctuary further embedding the principles of inclusion into service delivery and action point 5.6. which commits to producing a joint calendar of events which promote integration and support sanctuary events such as during Refugee week</p>
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<p>4) That the Council releases the Needs Assessment report to the public to foster better understanding of the experiences of people seeking sanctuary, ensuring that any confidential data it contains is appropriately safeguarded.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Council agrees to release the needs assessment report to the public to foster better understanding of the evidence basis for the development of the action plan embedded within the framework.</p> <p>Officers propose for the Needs Assessment to be added as an appendix onto the cabinet report (Appendix 4) and to add in a reference into the Council of Sanctuary cabinet report to highlight this.</p>
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