

**REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, COMMUNITY  
SAFETY AND EQUALITY  
CITY OF SANCTUARY POLICY STATEMENT 2018-22**

**SUMMARY**

The attached “City of Sanctuary Policy Statement”, sets out Birmingham City Council’s renewed commitment to enabling Birmingham to be a “City of Sanctuary”. A City of Sanctuary is a city which provides a welcoming, inclusive place of safety for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. The Council also recognises that this needs to be more than just about how asylum seekers, refugees and migrants arrive in and are welcomed but about how they settle and integrate in the city. Where this can be achieved there will also be benefits for all of Birmingham’s citizens and communities.

Birmingham City Council’s vision is for Birmingham to be a city of growth where every child, citizen and place matters, and this should apply equally to all of Birmingham’s residents including new arrivals and migrant communities. This statement supports this vision and sets out the Council’s aims and commitments to supporting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants for 2018-22. This sits alongside and with the Council’s priorities, outcomes and plan for 2018-22 to ensure that the approach taken to creating a City of Sanctuary is relevant and aligned to, as well as integrated within the Council’s existing commitments to the city, its stakeholders and communities.

In 2015 Birmingham City Council pledged its commitment to Birmingham being a City of Sanctuary and a welcoming place of safety for all, proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. In doing so it joined the City of Sanctuary movement which started in the UK in 2005. At the same time the Council pledged to welcome 550 Syrian refugees via the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. This commitment was refreshed in 2017 with the adoption of a City of Sanctuary position statement, outlining a number of actions and initiatives the Council was engaged in to help deliver this commitment. This policy statement is the next iteration of the Council’s commitment to being a City of Sanctuary, also including migrants to reflect the UK’s changing status in the European Union.

The policy statement sets out the strategic context to migration in Birmingham, particularly recognising both the demands and opportunities which asylum seekers, refugees and migrants create for the city. It also recognises the initial challenges in resettling and integrating these groups, but that where this is done successfully there can be significant benefits for all of Birmingham’s communities.

**MOTION**

That the City of Sanctuary policy statement (Appendix 1) is approved as the City Council’s new commitment to supporting the resettlement and integration of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Birmingham. In addition that the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health be authorised to publish and disseminate the document as appropriate.