

MINUTE EXTRACT

COUNCIL – 22 MARCH, 2021

86 MOTION - REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Councillor Tony Norbury moved and Councillor Christine Spriggs seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate this matter, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) –

We as Wirral Borough Council recognise the extreme hardships faced by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from across the world, many fleeing from war, oppression and other human rights violations.

Council believes we as a council want to help and play our part in making the World a better place for all by pledging to become a recognised Borough of sanctuary, officially joining the network of councils who are already recognised as places of sanctuary and welcome for all.

Council would wish to make to make Wirral a borough where:

- **Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are treated with respect, dignity and equality**
- **A fair, humane and effective process is in place to support migrant communities**
- **An empathetic, people centred approach is in place**
- **Co-production and collaborative processes are valued, to engage the wider community and migrant communities**
- **The barriers to integration and interaction within the community are removed.**

Council asks the Policy and Resources Committee to include in its work programme for the forthcoming municipal year, to consider:

(1) embedding a borough of sanctuary and welcome workstream into our policy committee structure linking into the work already underway through our MEAS team linked to our schools and expanding BAME communities supported by our council partners at Wirral Change, The Deen Centre and The multi-Cultural Organisation

(2) by pledging to:

- **Challenge and campaign for migrant rights and against the ‘hostile environment’**
- **Celebrate the contribution refugee, asylum seeker and migrant communities bring to the borough of Wirral**
- **Raise awareness about some of the issues these communities face**

- **Facilitate training for local businesses and organisations to ensure they can offer a service which is welcoming to all migrants**
- **Be inclusive throughout the process by listening and engaging with people with lived experience, community organisations, statutory services, faith groups, businesses and much more.**