

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 13 March 2025, vote taken on Motion 2.

Motion 2 – Proposed by Councillor Ash Lever and seconded by Councillor Inga Lockington.

Motion Text: 'This Council recognises the benefits of diverse and multicultural communities, welcoming refugees and displaced people from around the world fleeing conflict, climate change, inequality, discrimination and violence. The Council affirmed its pride in how welcoming Suffolk residents are towards those seeking asylum in the Conservative motion to council in December 2022.

The Council believes that integration of migrants into our communities is essential to provide sanctuary and ensure community cohesion, and that teaching the young people of Suffolk to show kindness and empathy is the best way to instil these values and prevent further civil unrest as seen across the country in the summer of 2024.

The Council resolves to:

- Learn from the City of Sanctuary's Local Authority Network (170 councils nationally) about best practice so migrant communities continue to be treated with dignity and respect in Suffolk
- Support the 'City of Sanctuary' vision that the UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution
- Apply to become a member of the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network, with the aim of becoming a recognized 'Council of Sanctuary' by working towards a Council of Sanctuary Award
- Establish a 'Sanctuary Lead' Officer at Suffolk County Council, to engage with City of Sanctuary and its networks
- The Sanctuary Lead Officer will work with community groups and local charities, districts and boroughs, libraries, education providers and Family Hubs to make sure migrants are able to access advice and support on housing, health and wellbeing, education and skills
- The Sanctuary Lead Officer will also work with schools to establish further 'Schools of Sanctuary' in Suffolk
- Work with its staff to ensure that they understand the needs of those seeking sanctuary and are able to challenge misinformation in the wider community
- Provide training for councillors on the immigration system in Britain and how best to help local migrants and asylum seekers during the Equality and Diversity part of their induction, and annually thereafter
- Produce a written Council of Sanctuary strategy, publicly available, which sets out the Council's commitment for at least three years.'

Total results	
For	12
Against	39
Abstain	2

Conservative Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Edward Back		Against	
Peter Beer		Against	
Bobby Bennett		Against	
Stuart Bird		Against	
Elaine Bryce			
Stephen Burroughes			
Nadia Cenci		Against	
Jenny Ceresa			
Chris Chambers		Against	
Judy Cloke		Against	
Andy Drummond			
Robert Everitt		Against	
Philip Faircloth-Mutton		Against	
James Finch		Against	
Jessica Fleming		Against	
Mick Fraser		Against	
David Goldsmith			
Georgia Hall			
Liz Harsant		Against	
Ryan Harvey			
T-J Haworth-Culf			
Matthew Hicks		Against	
Rachel Hood		Against	
Beccy Hopfensperger		Against	
Michael Ladd		Against	
Stuart Lawson			
Henry Lloyd		Against	
Joe Mason		Against	
Debbie McCallum		Against	
Patti Mulcahy		Against	
Sam Murray		Against	
David Nettleton			
Alexander Nicoll		Against	
Colin Noble		Against	
Kay Oakes		Against	
James Reeder		Against	
Andrew Reid		Against	
Debbie Richards		Against	
David Roach		Against	
Keith Robinson		Against	

Richard Rout		Against	
Richard Smith MVO		Against	
Karen Soons			
Heike Sowa		Against	
Joanna Spicer		Against	
Lance Stanbury		Against	
Jamie Starling			
Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro			
Paul West			
Steve Wiles		Against	
Nathan Wilson		Against	

Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Seamus Bennett	For		
Jessie Carter			
Annette Dunning	For		
Simon Harley			
Richard Kemp			
Ruth Leach	For		
Ash Lever	For		
Robert Lindsay	For		
Inga Lockington	For		
Victor Lukaniuk			
Andy Mellen			
Penny Otton	For		
Keith Scarff	For		
Andrew Stringer	For		
Caroline Topping			
Keith Welham	For		

Labour Group

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Rob Bridgeman			Abstain
Peter Byatt			Abstain
Elizabeth Farrow	For		
Sandy Martin	For		
Lucy Smith			

Ungrouped Independent Councillor

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Peter Thompson		Against	

Ungrouped Reform UK Councillor

Councillor's Name	For	Against	Abstain
Christopher Hudson		Against	