

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**18 OCTOBER 2016**

**ITEM NO 11 - CITY OF SANCTUARY**

Councillor Lovelock to move:

Reading has a proud history of welcoming diversity, challenging discrimination and supporting refugees, asylum seekers and other newcomers. We value the contribution that those seeking sanctuary can make to Reading and we are committed to taking practical steps to welcome and integrate all people into Reading's community.

In January the Council expressed its commitment, in real terms, to being a place of sanctuary by committing to take three families per year for five years through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme.

This Council notes that the first three families are now settled in Reading, supported by a range of organisations to help them adjust to their new lives.

This Council wishes to continue to promote the inclusion and welfare of those coming to Reading to seek sanctuary and resolves to support the Reading City of Sanctuary movement and to spread the sanctuary message of welcome across all sections of the local community.