

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

This notice is to be used for the following types of officer decisions. (Select one option).

A. Decisions taken by officers under a specific express delegation from Council or a Committee.

B. Decisions taken by officers under a general delegation from Council or a Committee, which relates to (i) a permission or a licence, or (ii) the rights of an individual, or (iii) a contract or expenditure over £100,000.

1. Title of decision:	Sanctuary Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2028
2. Date of the decision:	23 June 2025
3. The decision maker:	Executive Director Communities and Adult Social Care as Acting Chief Executive, on behalf of the Chief Executive

4. Decision details:

Adoption and publication of the Sanctuary Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2028.

5. Reasons for the decision:

The Strategy is a requirement of our application for Council of Sanctuary status, which was agreed via a Council motion in 2022.

6. Alternative options considered (if any) and rejected:

To not proceed with publication of the strategy, though this would mean that the Council is unable to apply for the Council of Sanctuary award, as agreed via the Motion approved by Council on 22 March 2022.

7. List of open Background Papers:

None.

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:

None.

9. Any other matters taken into consideration:

Legitimate expectation of consultation

Procedural requirements

<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health implications	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or Climate Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management implications
<input type="checkbox"/> Transparency of Information (FOI etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Privacy Impact Assessments
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Act Duties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory duties	<input type="checkbox"/> EU withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Covenant	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Details of the matters taken into account:

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. This proposal will have a positive impact on stakeholders and on the wider Reading community, as it aims to provide a safe, stable and better quality of life to refugees and asylum seekers within the Borough. The development of the Council's Sanctuary Strategy has been a consultative and participatory process, where relevant stakeholders have been encouraged to participate.

10. Legal considerations

There are no specific legal implications to consider. The Monitoring Officer has provided advice and confirmed the delegation that was granted by Council.

11. Financial considerations

The work relating to refugee and asylum is funded through Government grants. There is a cost of £1,500 over 3 years for the application itself, to be funded through existing grant funding for refugees. Finance has agreed that the decision can proceed.

12. Internal consultations

The Strategy and Action Plan were considered and endorsed by CMT on 3 December 2024.

This included the Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Finance, in accordance with the authorisation granted by Council.

The Leader of the Council has also been consulted on the Strategy and Action Plan, in accordance with the authorisation granted by Council.

Sections 13- 18: To be completed only for Decision A (express delegation from a Committee)

13. The name of the Committee:

Council

14. Date of the meeting:

22 March 2022

15. Minute number:

48

<p>16. The delegation given by the Committee:</p>	<p>This Council Resolves to: Reaffirm our commitment as a City of Sanctuary through beginning the application process for 'Council of Sanctuary' status. The implementation of the above to be achieved by delegating authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, and the Director of Finance. Council further delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to vary the above as additional requirements manifest.</p>
<p>17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.</p>	<p>Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services Director of Finance Leader of the Council</p>