This Council:

(a) Notes that:

(i) ***<Insert Local Authority>*** is proud of our history of providing welcome to people seeking safety in ***<insert local area>***;

(ii) There are significant problems with the UK asylum system that affect people in ***<local area>***, including a backlog of cases awaiting a decision, an effective ban on working, enforced poverty and homelessness, and the stoking of division and fear by the far-right;

(iii) On the 17th November 2025 the Home Secretary announced a new asylum policy statement *Restoring Order and Control*[1] that will not address these problems and represents an escalation of 'anti-refugee' laws and policies that includes measures such as:

(1) Reviewing the status of recognised refugees every 30 months and quadrupling the wait for settled status to 20 years;

(2) Fast-tracking deportations and restricting asylum appeals

(3) Enforced removals of families with children, removing accommodation and support from families, making them destitute, to force compliance

(4) The seizure of 'high value items' from sanctuary seekers

(5) Revoking the statutory duty to provide financial support and accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute

(6) Additional barriers to refugees accessing state benefits

(7) The curbing of family reunion

(8) 'Modest' new safe routes

(9) The reinterpretation of human rights laws around torture and inhumane or degrading treatment, the right to family life, and modern slavery

(10) Warehousing people seeking safety in camps on military sites

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1 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-and-returns-policy-statement/restoring-order-and-control-a-statement-on-the-governments-asylum-and-returns-policy#part-i-reducing-arrivals

(b) Believes that:

(i) These anti-refugee policies will be deeply damaging to people seeking safety and our wider communities, including by:

(1) Creating a two-tier support system that treats refugees as second-class citizens, trapping them in decades of limbo which will undermine integration outcomes and community cohesion;
(2) Forcing more women and children to risk perilous journeys across the Channel in order to reunite with their families, and detaining and forcibly removing children born in the UK;
(3) Placing unnecessary pressure on local homelessness and social care services by revoking the statutory duty to provide accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, making families destitute and ending the 56-day move-on pilot;
(4) Continuing to deny our local economies of the potential for growth and the opportunity to fill vital labour shortages by maintaining the ban on work for people seeking safety;

(c) Resolves to:

(i) Commit to fighting anti-refugee laws and policies that undermine the right to seek safety and damage our communities and join other local councils across the UK in signing the Fight for Asylum Rights pledge[2];

(ii) Call on the local MP***(s)*** to oppose these policies on behalf of ***<local area>***;

(iii) Call on the UK Government to throw out the proposals in the new asylum policy statement and work with local authorities and communities to build a fairer and more effective asylum system built on compassion not cruelty.

[2] https://fightforasylumrights.org/take-action/