

Council

25 March 2019

Motions (2 total)

Motion A	Proposed by: Councillor Whyborn	Seconded by: Councillor Clucas
<p>“1) In the light of recent published StageCoach data showing modal shift from private to public transport, and also greater emphasis on cycling and walking, now would seem the right time to be exploring further potential for public transport usage.</p> <p>2) It is essential for Cheltenham to have attractive, safe, and practical facilities to encourage use of buses and coaches. For too long, the people of Cheltenham and the surrounding area have put up with very poor public transport connectivity, and very poor facilities when waiting for buses and coaches. This is in marked contrast to other towns and cities in the UK and beyond, where money has been invested and facilities are good. Four main nodal points exist for bus and coach termination and the walk between some is more than enough to deter usage, for many.</p> <p>3) The size and location of any central transport hub should take into account how the road and public transport networks, and the public realm, are likely to develop. Good connectivity to the rail station and key locations, such as the hospital, P&R, and main workplaces, should inform the plans, as should access to any prospective rapid transport link to Gloucester and beyond.</p> <p>4) Recognising that CBC is neither a transport operator nor a transport authority, but IS very much a place shaping agency :</p> <p>it is recommended that CBC officers and the Cabinet Member work with all the relevant agencies to study and determine the appropriate size, scope, and location of a properly equipped transport hub for Cheltenham, and how good connectivity can be delivered. This is particularly timely given the GCC Local Transport plan review currently being initiated.</p>		
Motion B	Proposed by: Councillor Wilkinson	Seconded by: Councillor Boyes
<p>Council notes that:</p> <p>Cheltenham has a history of welcoming refugees who have contributed to and shaped our town.</p> <p>Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, working with GARAS, has done our town proud by showing compassion to the refugee families who have made their homes here.</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council has made a significant pledge of housing up to 100 refugee families over the four-year resettlement period, subject to logistical challenges.</p>		

Cheltenham Borough Council has recently entered into a collaborative arrangement with UKVI in their sourcing of private rented accommodation for households seeking asylum, with an estimate that 25 asylum seekers will benefit each year from the arrangement.

Council therefore recommends that the authority:

Seeks to follow the guidelines set out by the City of Sanctuary initiative and recognise the work done by Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees to adopt the title of Town of Sanctuary, effective immediately. This will include learning from best practice in existing Cities of Sanctuary.

In doing so, the authority seeks to take practical steps to welcome and include refugees in local activities and will seek ways of supporting refugees wherever it can.

To achieve this, the authority will deepen its work with Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees to build new links between CWR and the council's local partners. This will include asking council departments, the council's partners and other local organisations to support and provide inclusive and accessible activities.

Further, the authority commits to supporting activities that promote the education and training of refugees, enabling them to better integrate into the town and play an active role in the success of our local economy and creating sustainable communities.