

A welcoming borough: Labour amendment

Proposer: Cllr Chiriyankandath

Secunder: Cllr Gunes

Background:

Haringey is one of the most diverse boroughs in London, with a long and proud tradition of welcoming refugees and migrants, many of whom have made a considerable contribution to our society.

The Coalition and successive Conservative Governments' 'Hostile Environment' immigration policy has led to a rise in the number of injustices and severe hardships experienced by many of Haringey's most vulnerable residents, including the Windrush generation and their descendants, families with no recourse to public funds, people seeking asylum, EU migrants, and under-documented or undocumented migrants.

Both of Haringey's Members of Parliament, Catherine West MP and David Lammy MP, have consistently worked to oppose the 'Hostile Environment' policies and to promote the equal treatment of migrants in the UK.

The Council believes:

- That all residents, including those who have lived long-term in the borough as well as newly arrived immigrants, should be treated with dignity and respect.
- That welcome, not hostility, should be the spirit driving the Council's approach to service delivery and to working with all residents, particularly vulnerable refugees and migrants.
- That the debate on immigration should be conducted with care for the dignity of people who are vulnerable, who do not have a voice in the public domain and who have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate and inflammatory language.
- That everybody should be treated justly and fairly and not forced into destitution or left without basic protections.
- That together with local civil society we must ensure that good processes are in place to enable integration and inclusion, so that Haringey is a truly welcoming borough to all its residents.
- That 'Hostile Environment' policies are unjust and have no place in our society.

The Council resolves:

- That the beliefs listed above should guide the Council's interactions with refugees and migrants
- To do all in its power to protect the vulnerable from destitution and to prevent extreme hardship
- To write to both of Haringey's Members of Parliament to thank them for their work on opposing the 'Hostile Environment' immigration policies as pursued by the Coalition and successive Conservative Governments.
- To immediately undertake a comprehensive audit of its relationship with the Home Office and immigration enforcement, and an assessment of its current practices and the impact of the Hostile Environment policy on inclusion, equality and cohesion in the borough
- To prioritise welcome, integration and inclusion within the forthcoming Borough Plan

- To work with other local authorities to make regular representations to the Government demanding that they end the 'Hostile Environment'
- In the coming months to develop and implement a 'Welcome Strategy' detailing policy and practice guidelines to ensure best practice in integration and inclusion within the borough and protection and support for Haringey residents targeted by the 'Hostile Environment' policy.