

Council of Sanctuary

The following motion of Weston-super-Mare Town Council was passed on the 24th March 2025:

That Weston Town Council supports City of Sanctuary U.K. in its vision that the U.K. be a welcoming place of safety for all and is proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

This council is committed to support the initiative to make Weston-super-Mare a recognised Council of Sanctuary.

We already welcome those fleeing violence and persecution in their own country. We recognise their potential contribution to our town. We need a comprehensive, coordinated and forward-looking approach if both the welfare of people moving into our town and community cohesion between new and existing communities are to be supported effectively.

This means that WTC is now beginning the engagement process. You can find out more about the process here: [Process to becoming a Council of Sanctuary](#).

As stated in the motion, the Town Council believes that both new and existing communities need to be involved in this process. Therefore, in addition to consultation with local organisations supporting refugees, we are also seeking views from all Weston residents through this questionnaire and through our first two public meetings in July.

To gather views we are using the SWOT Framework, which focusses on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and our focus is on areas that are under Town Council Control. These are listed on our [website](#).

We are providing residents of Weston-super-Mare the opportunity to feedback on this motion, focusing on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT Framework). This survey will run alongside an in person public community engagement programme, the details of which will be shared on our website and via social media.

* 1. What is your postcode?

Please note - this information will only be used to ensure we are collecting data from WSM residents only.

* 2. Do you believe you have enough information to understand what becoming a council of sanctuary would mean for Weston-super-Mare Town Council?

Yes

No

3. If Yes, where did you get your information?

4. If no, what additional information would you like?

* 5. What **benefits** do you think could come from Weston-super-Mare Town Council becoming a Council of Sanctuary?

* 6. What **problems** do you think could arise from Weston-super-Mare Town Council being a Council of Sanctuary?

* 7. What do you feel are the **advantages** to the Town Council enabling the community to shape how people are welcomed to the Town?

* 8. What do you feel are the **disadvantages** of the Town Council enabling the community to shape how people are welcomed to the Town?

* 9. Based on information available on the council of sanctuary motion made and passed by Weston-super-Mare Town Council, at present what is your position?

(PLEASE NOTE: This question is just to gain understanding, and is not a formal vote)

I do not support



I support

* 10. Will you be attending one of the public meetings in July?

Yes

- No
- I was not able to get a ticket
- I could not attend for practical reasons (e.g. timing, location etc)
- I do not like public meetings
- I would be uncomfortable sharing my views in a public meeting

11. Do you have any further comments which have not been covered above?

12. Would you like to be involved in future?

- I would like to be kept informed of progress
- I would like to discuss progress in meetings
- I would prefer to share my views via online surveys
- I am not interested in being involved in future

13. If you have answered yes to any of the above (question 12), please leave your email address here.

Done

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