

Suffolk County Council meeting Thursday 1 December 2022, vote taken on Motion 1

Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Bobby Bennett and seconded by Councillor Joanna Spicer.

Motion Text: 'This Council wishes to put on record its heartfelt thanks to families in Suffolk who have opened their homes to welcome refugees fleeing Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing conflict.

Since March of this year, over 650 hosts have welcomed over 1200 guests. This is another example of Suffolk stepping up to the plate and supporting those in need. The outstanding efforts of Suffolk residents has enabled guests to settle into our communities and adapt to life in the UK.

Many guests from Ukraine have now been with us for six months. We are extremely grateful to hosts who are able to continue to provide invaluable support to families beyond the initial six-month period, but we fully understand that some hosts are unable to continue hosting and more refugees are arriving in Suffolk from Ukraine each week.

Suffolk is, therefore, in need of new hosts to offer refugees a safe haven while the war in Ukraine continues and we would urge anyone who is willing, able and interested in providing help to a Ukrainian family to do so by registering on the Council's website.

This Council would also like to thank schools and early years services across the county who have welcomed over 400 children into their communities. This Council stands behind His Majesty's Government in its continued support for our Ukrainian friends and welcoming those fleeing Vladimir Putin's illegal war in Ukraine.

We know that many Ukrainians in Suffolk will be separated from their families and loved ones this Christmas. This Council wishes all hosts and our Ukrainian guests the best possible Christmas and pledges to continue our support into 2023 and beyond.'

Members present agreed the motion by general assent.