

Motion on Hotels for Asylum Seekers

This Council notes with concern that the Government and the Home Office are now planning to close 50 of the hotels which are currently housing Asylum Seekers on the 1st January 2024. It is also requiring that Asylum seekers who are now accepted as refugees should leave their hotels almost immediately.

This Council also notes that the Local Government Association (LGA) has written to the Immigration Minister, Robert Jenrick, expressing its concerns about the challenges which those people who are having to leave the Hotels will face in finding long term affordable accommodation. Many of those who are now refugees will be at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping.

The LGA's Letter called for a joint and funded approach, nationally and locally, to manage the transition from asylum accommodation to independent. It also asked for a pause in asylum support cessations over the Christmas week and during extreme cold weather to reduce the risk of street homelessness.

East Herts has many Ukrainian Refugees who are looking for accommodation, and their chances of finding homes could be seriously affected by this sudden rise in the number of new refugee homeless and rough sleepers.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Immigration Minister, Robert Jenrick, stating its full support for the letter which was sent by the LGA.

Motion proposed by Cllr Mione Goldspink and seconded by Cllr Richard Townsend.