

Council Votes to Urge Government to Close Asylum Hotel Amid Community Concerns

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A local council has formally voted to request that the UK Government shut down an asylum seeker hotel, citing growing community tensions, safety concerns, and strain on local services. The decision comes after months of mounting unease among residents, with councillors arguing that the facility is no longer a viable or sustainable solution for housing migrants.

The motion, which was passed with majority support during a recent council meeting, calls on the Home Office to end its use of the hotel as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers. Councillors stated that the ongoing arrangement has caused disruption within the community and placed increased pressure on essential public services, including healthcare, policing, and education.

While council leaders acknowledged the need to provide safe shelter for those seeking asylum, they argued that housing large numbers of migrants in residential or semi-rural settings, without proper infrastructure or consultation, was leading to avoidable problems. Residents in the area have voiced frustration over the lack of transparency from the central government, with some claiming they were not informed before the hotel's conversion into an asylum facility.

Several councillors expressed concern about the impact on local cohesion. They emphasised that their vote was not driven by hostility toward asylum seekers, but rather by the belief that the current policy is failing both the migrants and the host community. One councillor stated that the use of hotels was a “short-term fix for a long-term problem” and urged the government to adopt more sustainable and structured accommodation strategies.

From a centre-right perspective, the council's decision reflects growing national dissatisfaction with the government's approach to asylum housing. The use of hotels, funded by the taxpayer at considerable expense, has become a flashpoint in the broader immigration debate. Critics argue that the policy lacks oversight and undermines public confidence in the asylum system.

The Home Office has defended its approach, stating that hotels are used only as a last resort due to unprecedented demand and delays in processing claims. However, recent figures show that thousands of asylum seekers remain in temporary accommodation for extended periods, with little clarity on long-term solutions.

The council's vote adds to the pressure on Westminster to reform the current model and introduce alternative housing options that are more cost-effective and less disruptive. Whether the government will act on the recommendation remains to be seen, but the message from local representatives is clear: the current strategy is not working.