

Agenda Item 5(b)

Amendments to Motions

	Document	Proposer of Amendment and Pages
1.	Councillor Trendall – 20 December 2021 Asylum Seeker Accommodation in Milton Keynes	Councillor Walker 2 – 3
1.	Councillor Taylor – 23 December 2021 Grid Roads	None
1.	Councillor Montague – 5 January 2022 Youth Mayor	None

Notes

Changes to, or withdrawal of amendments must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 17 January 2021.

Enquiries

Please contact Roz Tidman on 01908 254589 or roslyn.tidman@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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1. Asylum Seeker Accommodation in Milton Keynes

Councillor Trendall (20 December 2021)

Councillor Walker moves the following amendment:

- “1. That a new clause 1(c) be added as follows:
‘Recognises that Councillors’ language on this sensitive issue can play an important role in reassuring communities and supporting asylum seekers.’
2. That the words ‘further from the coast than almost anywhere else in the UK’ be removed from clause 2(a)
3. That clause 2(d) is removed in its entirety and replaced with the following:
‘Welcomes and praises the generosity of residents, charities, and other groups who have stepped up to support those who have been located at the hotel.’
4. That clause 2(e) is removed in its entirety.
5. That the words ‘the three ward councillors and’ are removed from clause 2(g).”

The motion, if amended would read:

- “1. That this council notes:
 - a) The United Kingdom has a responsibility to house those seeking asylum in the UK in accommodation, which is safe, and where those so housed are accorded dignity whilst a decision on their status is made.
 - b) That the Home Office has decided without consultation with the council or the local people, to place asylum seekers in accommodation in the former Woughton House Hotel, Woughton-on-the-Green, in Campbell Park & Old Woughton Ward.
 - c) **Recognises that Councillors’ language on this sensitive issue can play an important role in reassuring communities and supporting asylum seekers.**
2. That this council resolves that the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, write to the Home Secretary and ask that they:
 - a) explain why this location (Woughton House Hotel), ~~further from the coast than almost anywhere else in the UK,~~ was selected;
 - b) explain why the Home Office contractor, Clearsprings, is asking for community volunteers to help with local transport when their director was paid £3.6m last year, and additionally shared in a £1.4m dividend bonus;
 - c) explain why Milton Keynes residents who wish to volunteer are being asked by Clearsprings to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements, and are being told it is a requirement of the Official Secrets Act;

- d) ~~explain why it is the residents of Milton Keynes who are coming forward with clothing for the asylum seekers, and not the Home Offices' contractor, who is paid out of public funds;~~ **welcomes and praises the generosity of residents, charities, and other groups who have stepped up to support those who have been located at the hotel.**
 - e) ~~explain the Covid-19 vaccination status of the individuals, especially so as they will be allowed to 'come and go';~~
 - f) engage with local faith group leaders to ensure that the asylum seekers are able to properly take part in their religious observances; and
 - g) agree to allow unannounced visits by ~~the three ward councillors and~~ council officers, including but not limited to those working in Public Health, Environmental Health and Adult Social Care.”
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