

Notice of Amendment from the Liberal Democrat Group to the Reform UK Motion

Under “This Council resolves:” (5e):

Remove: “withdraw from”

Insert: “support and strengthen” (the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR)) “which is a British invention; and which has consistently defended the rights of individual citizens against overpowerful governments and institutions.”

Amendment to 5e:

HM Government will seek ~~to withdraw from~~ support and strengthen the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) ~~which is a British invention; and which has consistently defended the rights of individual citizens against overpowerful governments and institutions.~~

Amended Motion to read:

Amendment to be Moved by Councillor Sykes

Seconded by Councillor Al-Hamdani

Britain’s borders are in chaos, and nearly everyday migrants from across the world are coming across the channel and then being housed in hotels and other accommodation, which is causing significant concern within local communities. These concerns range from safety to the pressures placed on local services. It is therefore only right that residents of our Borough and elsewhere can voice their concerns with elected representatives without being branded racist.

It is the position of Reform UK that those who come to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland illegally, should simply not be allowed to stay here. It is our position that if people are prepared to break the law to get into the country, then they are clearly willing to break the laws of the country.

It is simply not fair to allow those who come here illegally to jump the queue. It is simply unfair that taxpayers are having to fund accommodation and other costs for those who come here illegally, especially those who have passed through multiple safe countries to get to this country.

We know that the huge pressures on housing for residents in our Borough impacts all our residents, but none more so than our veterans. It is why the Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation to the people who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, and that they are treated fairly. But despite the firm commitments set out in the Covenant, there are still too many veterans living in inappropriate accommodation, in hostels or on the streets.

It is Reforms position that we should be looking after our own people first, and most importantly our veterans.

We have to say to Home Office that enough is enough. The people of this Borough are at breaking point; the people of Britain are at breaking point.

This Council notes:

- 2025 has been one of the worst years ever for small boat crossings in the English Channel with over 36,734 people crossing the English Channel this year alone. Since July 2024, over 50,271 people have crossed the English Channel.
- Oldham Council has received grants for migrant support, including a £276,888 grant from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) for a two-year Refugee Support Project focused on language, digital inclusion, and employment. The council also received an Asylum Dispersal Grant of £898,800 from the Home Office for the 2025-2026 financial year to assist with costs related to supporting asylum seekers.
- The safety of local communities has not been taken seriously by the Home Office especially where hotels are designated for use by migrants. There have been several high-profile cases in the national media where serious crimes have taken place as a result of poor security and a lack of screening or background checks on migrants in these hotels.
- That residents who have genuine concerns have been sidelined and ignored by local and national authorities.
- That up to 3% of people sleeping rough in England are veterans. This means that around 300 to 400 veterans end up on the streets every year, and up to 4,000 require urgent support to find accommodation. Just one is one too many.

This Council believes:

- That local communities must be properly consulted before significant decisions are made that impact local services and housing.
- That the use of local hotels as long-term accommodation for migrants must end as places like Oldham have had disproportionate pressures placed on local infrastructure and services.
- That local councils, as the democratic voice of their communities, should have a say on who lives in our communities.

This Council resolves:

1. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council's legal department, will seek all necessary legal instruments and/or injunction/s and or any legal measures as necessary to prevent the use of local hotels or HMO's for migrant accommodation in the Borough of Oldham.

2. The Chief Executive will write to the Home Secretary and Greater Manchester Police Chief Constable, expressing this Council's concerns about the use of hotels in our area for migrant accommodation and that those who come to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland illegally are held in properly managed facilities, and that they are not housed in hotels, houses of multiple occupation or within the community whilst they are being processed.
3. That the Chief Executive will write to Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government demanding that the government reverse the decision by the Labour government to scrap plans to limit social housing applications to long-term British residents – which would have introduced a 'UK connection test' to limit social housing to those resident for at least 10 years.
4. The Chief Executive will make sure that no veteran in Oldham is homeless and that they are housed swiftly and without delay, as one homeless veteran is one to many. If they served this country, then they should be looked after by this country.
5. That the Leader of the Council will immediately write to the Prime Minister (and will not send any other letter that counters the requests of this letter), to demand that they urgently implement the necessary legislation that:
 - a. If you enter the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland illegally, you are ineligible for asylum in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
 - b. Make it a criminal offence for those who have already been deported to seek re-entry.
 - c. Make it a criminal offence to deliberately destroy identity documents such as a passport etc
 - d. Implement a lifetime ban on re-entry for those who have been deported.
 - e. HM Government will seek to support and strengthen the **European Convention of Human Rights** (ECHR) which is a British invention; and which has consistently defended the rights of individual citizens against overpowerful governments and institutions.