

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

5 December 2022

Council welcomes Home Office decision on Elme Hall Hotel

Fenland District Council has welcomed a decision by the Government not to place asylum seekers in a local hotel.

The Home Office was considering housing asylum seekers at the 45-room Elme Hall Hotel in Wisbech, as part of its contingency accommodation to house asylum seekers.

After being informed of the proposals on 3 November, Fenland District Council made strong representations to the Home Office regarding the unsuitability of Elme Hall Hotel and Wisbech in general for housing asylum seekers.

Cllr Samantha Hoy, Fenland District Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "We are pleased to report that we have now been informed that the Home Office has been unable to secure this hotel for the purpose of accommodating asylum seekers. The Council has made its position clear to the Home Office that placing asylum seekers in a rural town such as Wisbech, with very limited hotel accommodation and transport links, and issues with migrant exploitation and human trafficking, would be irresponsible.

"Councillors and officers have been working hard every day since we were made aware of the situation to try and get the best results for local people and all involved, so we are pleased that the Home Office has decided not to proceed with these plans."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: communications@fenland.gov.uk