



Press Release

October 7, 2026

Full objection to Home Office plan to house asylum seekers in Fenland

Further to Fenland District Council's initial letter of objection to a Government plan for 26-bed asylum seeker accommodation in Roman Court, Leverington, a more detailed response has now been submitted in accordance with the appeal process.

The objection states the plan poses "real risks to both asylum seekers and local residents."

The objection letter has been published on the Council's website with minimal redactions. For openness and transparency, the Council wanted to share as much as possible with the public.

According to expert advice commissioned, change of use planning permission may be required to use the site in the proposed way, which the Government has not sought.

The Council also investigated rumours that a covenant restricting use of the site was in place but unfortunately has found no evidence of this. Existence of a covenant may have been helpful to the objection.

The Home Office has told the Council it will consider the objection before making a final decision. The Council very much hopes the Home Office listens and takes its concerns seriously.

The Council is also challenging a Government indication this plan is part of a wider scheme to house 205 asylum seekers in the district, as it would be completely unacceptable.

The Council has said the proposed location is not equipped with the facilities and services to support asylum seekers and will negatively impact community cohesion. The objection letter adds concerns the Home Office has abandoned procedure followed on previous site proposals.

The Council's objection letter says: "The Home Office have ridden roughshod over the well-established evidence-based procedure and has now, without relevant evidence, selected a property without proper consultation and engagement with the agencies that know its area and the risks best."

“It is extremely disappointing that the Home Office are now trying to force an unacceptable property for asylum accommodation through without due regard to local concerns which have been accepted to date as real risks to both asylum seekers and local residents.

“The Council is also seriously concerned by reference in your letter of an allocation of 205 in the ‘Fenland Asylum Accommodation Plan’.

“The Council wholly reject that number as completely arbitrary and unreasonable for a district with the make-up of population and serious concerns regarding public safety and we demand that this figure is withdrawn by the Home Office.”

The Council has submitted its own evidence, as well as that from partners including Clarion Housing, that the proposed site is not suitable for asylum seekers.

The Leverington site has been identified as part of Government's nationwide plan to move asylum seekers out of hotel and short-term accommodation elsewhere in the country, into longer-term "dispersal accommodation.”

The Council profoundly disagrees that this location is suitable.

Read the objection letter via: www.fenland.gov.uk/article/18977

Ends

Notes to Editors

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