Fenland District Council

Press Release

2 November 2026

Council condemns Home Office decision to proceed with Roman Court asylum accommodation

Fenland District Council has expressed deep concern and alarm after the Government confirmed it intends to proceed with plans to use Roman Court, Leverington, for asylum accommodation.

The Home Office confirmed its decision to use the site for 26-bed accommodation for women and babies seeking asylum in correspondence received by the Council this afternoon (2 November).

The Council believes the decision demonstrates a complete disregard for the serious risks the plans pose to public safety, community cohesion and civil unrest. It follows weeks of significant local opposition, public protests and a fire at Roman Court which remains the subject of an ongoing police investigation.

Despite detailed evidence from the Council and partners highlighting concerns around community safety, safeguarding, pressures on local services, deprivation, crime levels and the suitability of the location, the Home Office has concluded that the risks can be managed through existing arrangements and intends to proceed with the proposal, subject to the site meeting the required standards before occupation.

Cllr Sam Hoy, Fenland District Council portfolio holder for housing, said: "We are extremely alarmed by the Home Office's decision which has been taken despite extensive evidence from the Council and our partners highlighting serious concerns about the suitability of Roman Court and the risks associated with this proposal.

"What is particularly troubling is that the Home Office has chosen to proceed at a time when there has already been significant unrest linked to these plans, including public protests and the fire at the site, which remains the subject of an ongoing police investigation.

"These events have demonstrated the strength of local concern and the heightened tensions that exist within the community. We do not believe those circumstances can simply be dismissed as issues that can be managed through routine arrangements.

“Our position remains unchanged. Roman Court is the wrong location for this proposal, and we remain deeply concerned about the impact on both future residents and the wider community.

“We will continue to make our objections known to the Home Office and work with our partners to ensure local concerns are heard and appropriately addressed.”

The Home Office has stated that it intends to proceed with the development, subject to the site meeting contractual, legal, regulatory and property requirements before any residents are accommodated there.

Read the Home Office correspondence at: www.fenland.gov.uk/article/19009

Ends

Notes to Editors

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