



Full Council – 15 September 2025

Motion for Non-Cabinet Member debate

Deterrence, Integration and Accommodation Impacts of Illegal Immigration on Brent

Background:

Brent has seen growing pressures on its housing stock, primary care and policing, in part due to hotels used for those arriving by irregular channel crossings by boats.

Hotels are used by the Home Office to place asylum seekers and those who arrive through illegal routes. This burdens the wider public purse and taxpayers and may create resentment towards those who follow these illegal routes.

There is currently no clear policy to integrate people arriving illegally, leading to cultural tensions, fears and safety concerns. Although not in Brent, the high-profile case of sexual assault by a recent arrival has amplified public anxiety.

This Council Notes:

- Illegal immigrants increase the demand for emergency hotel accommodation, diverting resources from Brent residents in need.
- Brent households face extended waits for temporary housing while hotels remain filled with asylum claimants which could include those arriving by small boats.
- The answer is deterrence to stop the boats, faster decisions that ensure people are not waiting for clarity on their immigration status for long periods of time and firm humane returns for those with no right to remain.
- Safe and legal routes should exist for the most vulnerable, with clear caps linked to local capacity.
- Other European countries have adopted deterrent and processing measures without veering into extreme policy e.g.
 - Italy agreed with Albania to process arrivals in centres under Italian jurisdiction, moving decisions away from beach landings.
 - Denmark legislated for third country processing, explored partnership with Rwanda while seeking a path that fits with European rules.

- The European Union has struck migration partnerships with Tunisia and Egypt to curb dangerous journeys upstream.

This Council Believes:

- Genuine refugees fleeing persecution deserve protection and swift humane processing.
- The integrity of our asylum system must be upheld by deterring dangerous journeys and prevent abuse of legal channels.
- Faster decision-making is required to process asylum claims and that people arriving illegally should be deported. Quick humane returns for those with no right to remain will restore public confidence.
- Those in genuine danger should be protected and shown the integrity of the system.
- That residents should not be made to subsidise national policy failures which result in inflated rental costs and overstretched public services.
- The Government has removed the Rwanda option without putting a credible solution to remove illegal immigrants in its place. This does not serve the national interest.
- If a workable model can cut the pull of illegal routes, a serious government should test it and be honest about results.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To publish data on the number of hotels used for asylum accommodation in Brent and, once they are granted leave to remain, the impact on the housing waiting list.
- (2) To secure monthly data from the Home Office and an exit plan for hotel use in Brent with dates and milestones.

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