

# **Merton Council Council**

**7 July 2021**

## **Supplementary Agenda 4**

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## NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME MOTION

### Tenants' Champion

Council requests Cabinet establish a Tenants' Champion service, that would:

- Be similar to (the non-stock holding) Richmond Council's Tenants' Champion, a service that that has been in place for more than 10 years;
- Work to support both tenants and leaseholders who rent or lease their properties from a housing association and also private renters in the borough,
- Provide support by giving someone for residents to contact if they had long\_running, unresolved complaints with their landlord, and by providing relevant information to renters more generally;
- Be trialled for a year and report their work to ~~full Council~~the Sustainable Communities scrutiny panel.  
~~Have. Include Councillor Nick Draper in~~being appointed as Merton's the inaugural  
~~role~~Tenants Champion.

Cllr Anthony Fairclough Councillor Eloise Bailey Councillor Simon McGrath

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## Item 12 - Lift the Ban coalition

Council notes:

(1) that in February [2020](#) Council passed a resolution to become a 'Borough of Sanctuary' and, also resolved to "challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found";

(2) The decision passed by Cabinet on 22 June [2021](#) for LB Merton to join the Lift the Ban Coalition;

3) That the Leader has written to both Stephen Hammond MP and Siobhain McDonagh MP, asking them to lobby the Home Secretary and Government to lift the ban and change the law allowing asylum seekers to work whilst awaiting decision on their asylum claim, and Cabinet member were reluctant to bring a motion or joint motion to Council on this topic, or to discuss this issue with other Council groups or interested councillors. Turn this vital issue into a political football by bringing it up for debate by Full Council

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Council believes that Members should be allowed an opportunity to debate this issue publicly, including challenging challenge any anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes if they are to be found.

Council therefore resolves to:

1) Endorse the Cabinet decision to join the Lift the Ban Coalition; and;

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2) Request Acknowledge that the Leader of the Council and/or the relevant Cabinet Member to write has written congratulate the Leader for writing to both Stephen Hammond MP and Siobhain McDonagh MP, asking them to lobby the Home Secretary and Government to lift the ban and change the law allowing asylum seekers to work whilst awaiting decision on their asylum claim.

Cllr Hina Bokhari

Cllr Anthony Fairclough

Cllr Jenifer Gould

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