

COUNCIL MEETING – 7 JULY 2021 NOTICE OF MOTION

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 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.

Council believes that Members should be allowed an opportunity to debate this issue publicly, including challenging 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,

2) Request the Leader of the Council and/or the relevant Cabinet Member to write 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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