

Hambleton District Council's current position – Linton-on-Ouse

In response to the Government's recent proposal for an asylum seeker centre in Linton-on-Ouse, Hambleton District Council has sought advice in respect of mounting a legal challenge opposing this. At this stage, this process is still very much underway.

In addition to this, a letter was sent to the Home Office from Hambleton District Council's Chief Executive Dr Justin Ives, on 4 May which raised general concerns around the proposal and the lack of consultation, and also requested further information such as project timescales and milestones.

To further support this, on 12 May Hambleton District Council met with the Home Office to reiterate the issues outlined in the letter and to raise questions around this proposal.

Although the Home Office has stated they will provide an official response to the letter and subsequent meeting during the week commencing 16 May, they did confirm their intention for approximately 100 asylum seekers to be on site in around 4-6 weeks' time.

We anticipate that further information around this will be provided in the official response along with a wider response to other issues raised and questions asked.

We continue to press ahead with the legal advice and have asked the legal team to identify a leading counsel that could represent the Council in any legal action. However, until we receive this response, we are not in a position to progress further or take any other action, although we will of course continue to listen to and support residents as you would expect.

We will update you once we have received both the response from the legal team and the response from the Home Office and made an assessment of our next steps which will be based upon the responses.

Hambleton District Council remains committed to securing the best possible outcome for the residents of Linton-on-Ouse and surrounding areas, as well as continuing to keep the community and key stakeholders up to date, in terms of the work we are doing as a council to secure the best possible outcome for everyone.