

Geoff Little OBE
Chief Executive



Our Ref GL/JM/Council
Date 29 September 2021
Please ask for Geoff Little
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Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Letter sent via email to public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk

Dear Home Secretary,

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 09 September 2021 approved a notice of motion in relation to welcoming refugees.

The full Council motion is set out below:

The Council recognises:

- The deeply concerning developments in Afghanistan along with recent political unrest and war in places such as Syria, Yemen and Hong Kong.
- The responsibility the UK has to many citizens in countries like Afghanistan and Hong Kong.
- That these developments are driving men, women and children in these locations to seek safety in the West, often willing to make perilous journeys, including by boat, to seek asylum in the UK.
- The longstanding tradition the UK has had to welcoming refugees dating back to the Second World War and before, and that this commitment should remain now and going forwards.
- The strong tradition the UK has in international aid, recently put in jeopardy by the cruel cut to International Aid.
- The strong track record Bury has in welcoming refugees over many decades.

- That Local Authorities have a vitally important role to play in housing refugee families, and that this crisis can be managed successfully if all Councils welcome their fair share of refugees over the coming months.

The Council resolved to:

- Reaffirm our commitment that refugees are very welcome in Bury.
- Pledge a commitment to take at least our fair share of refugees and encourage other Local Authorities to do the same.
- Work with our public and voluntary sector and partners, and across Greater Manchester, to make that welcome a day to day reality.

Accordingly, the Council asked me to write to you asking you to:

- Provide the necessary support and funding to Councils to facilitate the housing of refugees and care for refugee children.
- Reverse immediately the cut to International Development Aid and restore the 0.7% of GDP minimum.

I look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely



G Little
Chief Executive

cc: Andy Burnham (Greater Manchester Mayor), James Daly, MP for Bury North and Christian Wakeford, MP for Bury South.