

## **MOTION BY COUNCILLORS E DRYSDALE AND G LAING**

### **Calling for improved financial and practical support from UK Government to facilitate planned increases in Asylum Seeker Dispersal to Perth & Kinross**

Last month the UK Government restated its policy to reduce its reliance on contingency hotels accommodation for asylum seekers. This month, Perth & Kinross Council was advised of the Government's intention to increase the numbers to be housed in two hotels within Perth City Centre by 85%. These measures are being rolled out imminently so far without clarity on many practical considerations, on dealing with the impact on public services, and on sufficiency of increased funding to the Council. The matter of local private housing accommodation for those eventually granted asylum has still to be addressed.

The people of Perth & Kinross have a proud history of offering support and sanctuary to those fleeing conflict – most recently from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria – and this will certainly continue, however Governments must provide practical and financial resource to assist the local authority and public partners in looking after our guests.

Council therefore calls upon the Leader of the Council and leaders of all political groups within Perth & Kinross to write to the UK Home Secretary urgently requesting further financial and practical assistance so that asylum seekers who arrive in Perth & Kinross can be properly looked after, in a caring and compassionate manner.