

**COUNCIL MEETING – 29 NOVEMBER 2023
NOTICE OF MOTION**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
163	Councillor M Storey	Councillor E Clynch	<p>Motion in support of defending the Right to Seek Safety from War and Persecution</p> <p>This council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middlesbrough has a proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety in Middlesbrough and that significant problems with the UK asylum system are affecting people in Middlesbrough, including a record backlog of cases awaiting a decision and a de facto ban on working for asylum seekers who have not yet had their claims decided. • This council believes that everyone has the right to seek safety, and everyone’s claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly. <p>This council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution in the UK and sign up to the ‘Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws’ pledge. • Without breaching any relevant legislation this council opposes the principle of any UK Government to build or repurpose facilities in our local authority area to detain or warehouse people seeking safety unless mandated by law.
164	Councillor N Walker	Councillor P Gavigan	<p>Equalise Voting Rights</p> <p>This council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That many lawfully resident foreign nationals from non-EU and non-Commonwealth countries in Middlesbrough do not currently have a right to participate in the local democratic process in Middlesbrough as they are

			<p>ineligible to vote in in local government elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That foreign nationals, lawfully resident, should be allowed to vote in Middlesbrough Council and other local government elections to follow precedent set by other constituent countries of the UK, namely Wales and Scotland, whereby residents with lawful immigration status are enfranchised for local government elections.• That EU citizens who enter the UK at any date onwards of the 1st of January 2021 and are not covered by bilateral voting rights treaties will lose voting and candidacy rights in local elections when the Elections Act 2022 is fully implemented by May 2024.• That the Elections Act 2022 will result in an unfair situation where some foreign nationals lawfully resident in the UK will have the right to vote in local government elections in England while others will not.• That the complexity in voting eligibility will cause confusion and will reduce voter turnout in local elections. At the last Middlesbrough Council election, only 28% of voters turned out to cast their ballot. Therefore, it is right to expand the franchise in a way that equalises voting rights of foreign-born citizens to ensure a healthy local democracy in Middlesbrough.• That foreign nationals with lawful immigration status are able to live, work, study and pay council tax in Middlesbrough, but many do not have the right to vote in local elections. <p>This council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask the Directly Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough of Middlesbrough Council to write a letter to the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling upon the government to equalise the franchise between lawfully resident foreign nationals in England.
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