

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

The intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.

This council notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact of local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.

This council also notes that whilst elected members will have differences of opinion and may not agree with each other's points of view, there should be an expectation that they will treat each other with respect, they will not share any misinformation that may cause harm or increase abuse to other elected member, and will do their best to disagree agreeably and uphold the Nolan Principals at all times.

This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and officers and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does. The council further agrees to sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation.

In addition, this council resolves to

- Write to the local Member of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign and to raise awareness of this campaign in parliament when the opportunity arises.
- Ensure the council has a clear reporting mechanism which councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment and abuse of councillors and officers
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse, intimidation and councillor safety
- Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs. This includes links with specialist officers as part of Operation Ford.
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.

Date of Council Meeting:-

17th December 2025

Notice submitted from

Councillor Samara Barnes

Date: 4th December 2025

Councillor Alan Neal	Date: 4 th December 2025
Notice received and validated by S151 Officer: Chris Warren	
Comments: No comments.	Date: 5 th December 2025
Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Clare Birtwistle	
Comments: No legal implications.	Date: 5 th December 2025
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 4 th December 2025