

# ***Motions on Notice***



**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions: -

**1. Notice of Motion – Debate Not Hate**

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 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 reaffirms its commitment to the LGA’s Debate Not Hate campaign which 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 Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians.
- 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 and 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.
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.

Proposed by Councillor Claire Rowntree  
Seconded by Councillor Joanne Chapman

**Additional Signatories**

Cllr Graeme Miller	Cllr Alison Smith	Cllr Melanie Thornton
Cllr Iain Scott	Cllr John Usher	Cllr Allen Curtis
Cllr Juliana Heron	Cllr Fiona Miller	Cllr George Smith
Cllr John Price	Cllr Catherine Hunter	Cllr Ehtesham Haque
Cllr Beth Jones	Cllr Linda Williams	Cllr Joanne Laverick
Cllr Michael Mordey	Cllr James Blackburn	Cllr Phil Tye
Cllr Kelly Chequer	Cllr Alison Chisnall	Cllr Sean Laws

Cllr Kevin Johnston	Cllr Peter Walker	Cllr Jill Fletcher
Cllr Michael Butler	Cllr Logan Guy	
Cllr Paul Stewart	Cllr Martyn Herron	

## **2. Notice of Motion – A Smart City That Doesn’t Leave Anyone Behind**

Council agrees to ask the Cabinet to review how council services are offered in Sunderland and to take appropriate steps to make sure that:

- (i) everyone in our city can access services even if they cannot or do not want to do so digitally
- (ii) the Council’s goal is that the cost of services does not differ depending on whether you pay using cash or whether you use electronic payment methods
- (iii) nobody is put under undue pressure to access a service digitally if they are not able to do so independently and that analogue access is provided efficiently, effectively and without barriers. This should include a review of policies governing telephone calls by residents to the Council’s Customer Service Network.

Proposed by Councillor Heather Fagan  
 Seconded by Councillor Malcolm Bond

## **3. Notice of Motion – Minimum Quality Guarantee for Road Repairs**

Councillors of all parties are frustrated when roads are resurfaced to a poor standard and have to be resurfaced again within a short timeframe. Council recognises this as a false economy - and one which is resulting in a waste of taxpayers' money.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to instigate a review of contract terms for road and pavement repairs, to ensure that the Council receives a good quality service from subcontractors, and to explore options for instituting a regular inspection regime, so that officers are assured that a minimum quality standard has been met or otherwise take action when it has not.

Proposed by Councillor Gregg Peacock  
 Seconded by Councillor Michael Dixon

## **4. Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland**

The transition from Grace House to the newly acquired Red Gables site, set to open in summer 2024, will see parents of disabled and vulnerable children go without overnight support for a number of months.

Members agree that, in future, the Council must better prepare for its provision of short-term respite care, including overnight care, as some families are now being moved from one site of provision to another for the third time in seven years.

Council therefore agrees to a package of measures designed to improve the care and support available to disabled young people, whose disabilities are not catered for by existing services, including:

- Ensuring future decisions regarding short-break respite care arrangements are discussed with members, service users and as part of the scrutiny process rather than being decided at executive level.
- That families and children displaced from Grace House are made priority for placements at Red Gables and that these should be offered on a like for like basis.
- That a wider review of respite care is undertaken to ensure that a range of support (including overnight breaks, after school, weekend and holiday, and inclusive play and support groups) is available for different types of disability and special educational need. A report, following this review, should be presented to Children, Learning and Skills Scrutiny.

Council also agrees to request the Director of Children's Services to present a report to Scrutiny on how staffing, recruitment and retention needs for the new Red Gables facility will be met, in advance of it opening.

Proposed by Councillor Antony Mullen  
Seconded by Councillor Lyall Reed

## **5. Notice of Motion – Rescind Ed Davey's Knighthood**

The Post Office Horizon IT scandal led to the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history.

Subpostmasters across the country - including in Sunderland - were wrongly convicted of a crime they did not commit.

The ITV drama on this subject has ignited public anger about this case - and exposed the wrongdoing of those who declined to help.

When the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance (JFSA) asked to meet Lib Dem Leader Ed Davey - the then Minister for Postal Affairs, who served in a government department headed by Lib Dem Vince Cable - he declined, saying that it would serve no purpose.

As Conservative MP David Davis and Labour MP Kevan Jones jointly led a campaign to help the victims of this injustice, Davey took the side of the Post Office Ltd and showed a lack of leadership in not even questioning the organisational account which he now describes as a lie.

He is undeserving of the knighthood awarded to him for public service.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister, departmental head of the Cabinet Office, to inform him that this Council requests that the honours committee review the knighthood awarded to Ed Davey for public service.

- Support all subpostermasters, but particularly those who operated from Sunderland, in their case for a quicker compensation process to be introduced.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Hartnack  
Seconded by Councillor Antony Mullen

## **6. Notice of Motion – CPMS Charges**

Community Parking Management Scheme (CPMS) zones are a necessary tool of last resort to deal with parking problems in residential areas.

These parking issues are not caused by the residents who live there, but by people from out the area. Yet it is residents who have to pay to park outside of their own home - and this is unfair.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Eliminate the cost of a second parking permit entirely for all households in CPMS zones
- Remove administrative costs relating to the registration of new vehicles when a resident changes car

Proposed by Councillor Richard Dunn  
Seconded by Councillor Adele Graham-King

### **Additional Signatories**

Cllr Antony Mullen		
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