

MOTION ON NOTICE – Debate not Hate

This Council notes the Local Government Association are calling for support from organisations to sign the Debate Not Hate public statement, aiming to address the rise in abusive and intimidating behaviour directed at local politicians.

This Council acknowledges the findings of this report, principally that 88% of the locally elected representatives who responded to the LGA's survey have faced abuse and intimidation in the last 12 months. 73% said they have experienced it over social media where it seems to be becoming increasingly normalised and 64% said they have experienced it in person.

The Council understands this can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our Members and their families and we should be taking steps to ensure elected representatives feel safe and secure in their own communities.

By signing up to the Debate Not Hate public statement, The Council will lend its support to the LGA's recommendations, one of which is that the relevant Government department should convene a working group, in partnership with the LGA, to bring together agencies to develop and implement an action plan to address the issue of abuse.

I invite Councillors to share any experiences they have had and lend their support to Debate Not Hate

Proposed by Councillor Linda Haysey

Seconded by Councillor Mione Goldspink