

MEETING OF HARLOW COUNCIL
7.30 pm on Thursday 10 December 2020
Zoom - Online

This meeting is a virtual meeting which is being hosted on Zoom. Councillors and registered public participants will be sent access details nearer the date of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting can do so via a livestream which will appear on the Council's YouTube page
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HarlowCouncil>

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any items on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 4 - 17)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2020.

4. Communications from the Chair

5. Petitions from the Public

6. Questions from the Public

7. Questions from Councillors

8. Motions from Councillors

a) Adoption of Misogyny as a Hate Crime

Proposed by Councillor Emma Toal (seconded by Councillor Chris Vince):

"This Council notes:

- i) That the Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including misogyny, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament in 2020. Misogyny is not currently recorded as a hate crime by the vast majority of police forces in

the UK, outside of a handful of trial areas.

- ii) That this review was thanks to the work of Stella Creasy and her campaign to have misogyny classified as a hate crime - which her amendment to the Voyeurism (Offences) (No.2) Bill, or Upskirting Bill would have secured – alongside groups such as Citizens UK, HOPE Not Hate, Southall Black Sisters, Tell MAMA UK, and the Fawcett Society.
- iii) That like women and girls across the country our residents suffer harassment and abuse every single day. A YouGov national survey in 2016 showed that 85% of women aged 18-24 were subjected to sexual harassment in public.
- iv) The adoption of misogyny as a hate crime was successfully implemented in Nottingham, where analysis showed an increase in reporting as well as an increase in the use of wider services. It also showed the vast majority of local people wanted the scheme to continue.
- v) Studies have shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are BAME, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.

The Council resolves:

- i) To make a submission to the Law Commission's Consultation at the earliest opportunity in favour of strengthening hate crime legislation and making misogyny a hate crime.
- ii) To call on the Government to listen to the lived experience of women and girls across our country and to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime, and to reform legislation around harassment to recognise as an offence a 'course of conduct' which targets women and girls in their community.
- iii) To call on the Government to provide the resource and funding for police forces across the UK to effectively tackle harassment, misogyny and domestic abuse.
- iv) To call on Essex Police to record harassment of women as a hate crime, following successful trials in Nottingham and elsewhere."

9. References from Cabinet and Committees

- a) Referral from Independent Remuneration Panel - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2019/20 (Pages 18 - 20)

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommended to Full Council that the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances for the 2021/22 financial year remain unchanged from 2020/21 (as set out in Appendix A to the report).

- b) Referral from Cabinet - Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21: Mid-Year Review (to follow)
- c) Referral from Cabinet - Local Council Tax Support Scheme Proposals (to follow)

10. Reports from Officers

- a) Adoption of Harlow Local Development Plan (included within supplementary agenda packs 1 and 2)

11. Minutes of Cabinet and Committee Meetings

To note the following Cabinet and Committee minutes:

- a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 11 November 2020 of Development Management Committee (Pages 21 - 22)
- b) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 17 November 2020 of Licensing Committee (to follow)
- c) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 25 November 2020 of Audit and Standards Committee (to follow)

12. Matters of Urgent Business

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.