

COUNCIL 13 JULY 2016

MOTION ON NOTICE – DIVERSE AND TOLERANT SOCIETY (MOTION 2)

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillors Caroline Jackson, Tim-Hamilton-Cox and Rebecca Novell:-

This council notes that:

Lancaster has a good record as a district of tackling hate crime and racist attacks both through police and council action and that its citizens are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant community within a diverse and tolerant society.

It is regrettable that a few racial/hate crime incidents have been reported in the district since the EU referendum but that the police service is confident that previous outreach and confidence-building work means that members of our communities are more willing to report incidents.

This council believes that:

All people living in Lancaster district are valued members of our community regardless of origin and that xenophobic or racist hate cannot become socially acceptable.

This council resolves that:

- 1) *Lancaster city council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally and believes that racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our district or our country*
- 2) *Lancaster city council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes are supported to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.*
- 3) *That the statements in points 1&2 are displayed prominently on the city council website and that a press release is issued to publicise the motion.*
- 4) *That O&S reviews the current local and city council measures taken to counter racism, xenophobia, and hate crime and reports back to Full Council within 4 months.*
- 5) *That all councillors consider increasing their involvement with, and support for, those organisations which strengthen communities and increase tolerance and respect between peoples from different countries, cultures and faiths.*

Officer briefing note

To reiterate the points made on the preceding briefing note, Community Leadership is clearly stated as one of the four priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan. The Council is committed to bringing communities together and addressing the major issues affecting the district through working in partnership. One of the roles of the council is to maintain community cohesion.

With regard to the particular resolutions in the motion, officer comments are:

- any support given to local bodies is likely to involve use of resources and any costs would need to be met within existing budgets set by Council for 2016/17
- The statements could be displayed on the City Council website in a banner format to coincide with any press release.
- Council may request or recommend that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should carry out a review, but it cannot instruct, nor can it set a timetable for

completion of the work. Committee members can then consider this request in the context of other priorities for the Overview and Scrutiny workplan for 2016/17.

Section 151 Officer's comments:-

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

Monitoring Officer's comments:-

The Monitoring Officer has prepared this briefing note in her role as Democratic Services Manager.