



MOTION TO MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

TUESDAY 7 MAY 2024

Jo Cox Civility Commission

Midlothian Council remembers Jo Cox MP for Batley and Spen, who was murdered in June 2016 and David Amess MP, who was murdered in October 2021.

Reiterates a statement made by Cox's husband following the tragic event where he urges everyone to "fight against the hatred that killed her."

Recognises the impact of the Jo Cox Foundation, set up in 2016, which nurtures stronger communities, champions respect in politics and advocates for a fairer world no matter one's party colours.

Notes, as part of their Respectful Politics workstream, the Jo Cox Civility Commission (the Commission) was launched in February 2023 and recommendations were published in January 2024 with the subheading 'No place in politics: tackling abuse and intimidation.'

Council further notes the Commission aims to find implementable solutions that make a difference to the issues of abuse and intimidation of elected officials; in their own words the "recommendations are deliberately ambitious."

Highlights that the calls to action and recommendations cover topics of co-ordination, behaviour, political literacy, social media use, traditional media, police, security, Parliaments (including devolved), local governments, elections and political parties.

This Council therefore confirms support of the Commission's recommendations and asks the Council Leader, Provost & Chief Executive to publicly endorse these via the Commission's website, and asks that the pledge, recommendations and information be shared to all elected members and Community Councils.

Council requests a report to the Standing Orders Committee which addresses how the Council has adopted or considered recommendations in existing workstreams, with specific reference to:

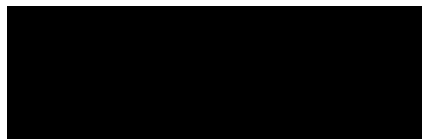
- a) How the Council can improve risk planning for abuse at Council meetings and other events.
- b) How the Council can ensure security and wellbeing resources are available to staff and elected members.
- c) How we can engage with relevant toolkits such as the Local Government Association's 'Debate Not Hate' Councillor toolkit and the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) Civility and Respect Project.
- d) How the Council can work with organisations like COSLA, Elect Her and local organisations to remove barriers to Elected Office.

Moved:



Councillor Kelly Parry

Seconded:



Councillor Debbi McCall