

To consider Notices of Motion submitted under Standing Order B36

1. By County Councillor Parr:

This council notes:

- Councillors represent their community and it is important that they reflect the diversity within their communities, particularly those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).
- The work of the Cooperative Party in developing a Declaration for councils aimed at increasing diversity in local government.
- The council does not fully represent the gender balance of the county nor its ethnic diversity. There is a wide divergence of representation between the parties on the council.
- This council already has a parental leave policy and provides access to counselling and wellbeing.

This council believes:

- Diversity in representation makes for good decision making.

This council resolves:

- To adopt The Co-operative Party's Diverse Councils Declaration to increase diversity in our local government:

The Co-operative Party's Diverse Councils Declaration

This Council commits to being a Diverse Council. We agree to:

1. Provide a clear public commitment to improving diversity in democracy.
2. Demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all, promoting the highest standards of behaviour and conduct.
3. Set out a local Diverse Council Action Plan ahead of the next local elections. Including:
 - Appoint Diversity Ambassadors for each political group on the council to work with each other and local party associations to encourage recruitment of candidates from under-represented groups.
 - Encourage and enable people from under-represented groups to stand for office through the provision of activities such as mentoring and shadowing programmes and information and learning events for people interested in standing as official candidates.

- Proactive engagement and involvement with local community groups and partner organisations supporting and representing under-represented groups.
 - Ensure that all members and candidates complete a candidates' and councillors' survey distributed at election time.
 - Set ambitious targets for candidates from under-represented groups at the next local elections.
4. Work towards the standards for member support and development as set out in the LGA Councillor Development Charter and/or Charter Plus.
5. Demonstrate a commitment to a duty of care for councillors by:
- Continuing to provide access to counselling services for all councillors having regard for the safety and wellbeing of councillors whenever they are performing their role as councillors.
 - Taking a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment of members including through social networks.
6. Provide flexibility in council business by:
- Regularly reviewing and staggering meeting times.
 - Encouraging and supporting remote attendance at meetings wherever feasible.
 - Agreeing recess periods to support councillors with caring or work commitments.
7. Ensure that all members take up the allowances to which they are entitled, particularly any reimbursement for costs of care, so that all members receive fair remuneration for their work and that the role of member is not limited to those who can afford it.
8. Ensure that councillors from under-represented groups are represented whenever possible in high profile, high influence roles.

2. By County Councillor Hennessy:

The Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy was written by the former Bishop of Liverpool to ensure the suffering endured by families bereaved following the 1989 Hillsborough disaster is not repeated after future disastrous events.

Liverpool City is one of our great neighbours, we have had many families directly and indirectly affected by the Hillsborough Tragedy itself. Lancashire County Council should stand shoulder to shoulder with all bereaved families who have suffered loss and we should ensure that Lancashire County Council does not make the same mistakes in the aftermath of any future disasters.

Lancashire County Council therefore resolves to:

Adopt The Charter for Families Bereaved Through Public Tragedy

In adopting this charter, Lancashire County Council commits to ensuring that Lancashire County Council learns the lessons of the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath, so that the perspective of the bereaved families is not lost.

We commit to Lancashire County Council becoming an organisation which strives to:

1. In the event of a public tragedy, activate its emergency plan and deploy its resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable.
2. Place the public interest above our own reputation.
3. Approach forms of public scrutiny – including public inquiries and inquests – with candour, in an open, honest and transparent way, making full disclosure of relevant documents, material and facts. Our objective is to assist the search for the truth. We accept that we should learn from the findings of external scrutiny and from past mistakes.
4. Avoid seeking to defend the indefensible or to dismiss or disparage those who may have suffered where we have fallen short.
5. Ensure all members of staff treat members of the public and each other with mutual respect and with courtesy. Where we fall short, we should apologise straightforwardly and genuinely.
6. Recognise that we are accountable and open to challenge. We will ensure that processes are in place to allow the public to hold us to account for the work we do and for the way in which we do it. We do not knowingly mislead the public or the media.

3. By County Councillor Ali:

Over the last 12 months there have been a number of deaths resulting from falls from bridges on the M65 from junction 10 to junction 14 which are owned and managed by Lancashire County Council.

Lancashire County Council has a commitment to a Lancashire anti suicide strategy and this Council therefore resolves to:

- (i) Carry out urgent surveys of all the motorway bridges from junction 10 to junction 14 of the M65.
- (ii) Take preventative measures including increasing the height of the railings like other motorway bridges to reduce significantly the risk of falls and critical accidents.

4. By County Councillor Collinge:

Lancashire County Council recognises the good work of community groups last winter in keeping our residents warm and well during the ongoing cost of living crisis. Whilst the council deplores that this is necessary, we recognise our responsibility to our residents to contribute to the humanitarian response.

This council resolves to establish a Warm and Welcome Places Grants Scheme to support community organisations to provide Warm and Welcome spaces across the county, with detailed criteria to be approved by Cabinet, to include all costs including costs of utilities, equipment, food and drink, activities and volunteer costs, to be funded from the Public Health Grant.

Grants would be available of up to £2,000 for a basic Warm and Welcome Space (including hot drinks), and £4,000 for enhanced Warm and Welcome Spaces (including hot meals and social activities).

Further, this council resolves to again include our libraries in the humanitarian response and reproduce the Warm and Welcome offer from Lancashire Libraries.