

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AMENDMENT 2 TO MOTION 2

Proposed by Councillor Boyle

Seconded by Councillor Berman

Additions shown in italics

Deletions shown in strikethrough mode

This Council recognises *that*:

- ~~That~~ Councillors have a duty to promote kind and honest discourse both on and off line.
- ~~Recognises that~~ Discussion, debate and scrutiny are vital to a democracy but must be carried out without abuse.
- ~~That~~ Robust debate is a crucial part of the scrutiny process ~~and should not be discouraged~~
- ~~That~~ ~~misinformation is often the trigger for such abusive behaviour~~
- ~~That~~ ~~anonymous accounts with no trail of accountability are often the worst culprits.~~
- ~~That~~ ~~public figures are often the target for abusive behaviour and that it inevitably has a significant detrimental impact on their wellbeing.~~
- *Social media can be an aggressive space, with abuse and misinformation from both named and unaccountable, anonymous accounts.*
- *Public figures are often the target for abusive behaviour that can harm their wellbeing.*

This Council proposes to:

~~Introduce a code of principles for social media use, that has an emphasis on promoting accurate discourse and encourages councillors to not write or share posts that contain obvious inaccuracies or aggression against colleagues.~~

~~To ask Councillors to declare on their declaration of interest their involvement in any social media accounts.~~

~~Develop a Code of Practice for groups and organisation which the Council works with, which sets similar high expectations of respectful and honest engagements, and which asks them to conduct themselves in a transparent manner rather than operating anonymous accounts~~

Ask the independent Chair of the Council's Standards and Ethics Committee to:

- *Lead an evidence-based examination into the threat posed to political debate by anonymous online accounts.*
- *Report on whether he believes a social media code of principles is required to deter unacceptable behaviour online.*

The Substantive Motion would read:

This Council recognises that:

- Councillors have a duty to promote kind and honest discourse both on and off line.
- Discussion, debate and scrutiny are vital to a democracy but must be carried out without abuse.
- Robust debate is a crucial part of the scrutiny process.
- Social media can be an aggressive space, with abuse and misinformation from both named and unaccountable, anonymous accounts.
- Public figures are often the target for abusive behaviour that can harm their wellbeing.

This Council proposes to:

Ask the independent Chair of the Council's Standards and Ethics Committee to:

- Lead an evidence-based examination into the threat posed to political debate by anonymous online accounts.
- Report on whether he believes a social media code of principles is required to deter unacceptable behaviour online.