

## **COUNCIL MEETING – 13 OCTOBER 2021**

### **ITEM 10 – NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The Mayor has accepted as an urgent item of business the following motion, relating to Violence Against Women and Girls. This motion could not be submitted by the deadline date of 30 September 2021 for acceptance of motions, as the Police Officer charged with the murder of Sarah Everard was not convicted until that day.

#### Violence Against Women and Girls

To be moved by the Councillor Jackie Hollywell and seconded by Councillor Teresa Callaghan.

“That this Council acknowledges and deeply regrets the murders of Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa, Nicole Smallman, and Bibaa Henry and would like to send our heartfelt condolences to all the families of these women and girls who have lost their lives as a result of violence.

The appalling murder of Sarah Everard last March was particularly shocking as her recently convicted murderer was a serving Police Officer. This horrendous crime has not only made women and girls more concerned about their safety, but it has sadly led to questions about the security and reassurance of the presence of Police Officers in our communities.

We would also welcome the announcement by the Home Secretary of an enquiry to look into the circumstances of this particular crime and perpetrator, as well as the wider societal implications for the safety of women and girls. However, we call on the Government to make this a formal public enquiry so that it can be as transparent and wide-reaching as possible. All the issues need to be properly examined as Violence Against Women and Girls can only be eradicated by a focus on the root causes and requires a cultural shift in attitudes and behaviours underpinned by education and legal improvements.

Therefore that Council resolves:

1. To write to the Home Secretary to call for the enquiry into the murder of Sarah Everard to be made a formal public enquiry;
2. To call on the Government to legally recognise Misogyny as a Hate Crime and for the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that any incidences of violence against women and girls are recorded accordingly; and
3. To also call on the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire to urgently review the conduct of their Officers and Staff in order to reassure the people of Stevenage that they have confidence in their Police.”