

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2016

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### CROSS PARTY MOTION 2

We are proud that Merton is a place where people from different backgrounds have lived and worked together harmoniously for many years. We have zero tolerance for hate crime and continue to work in partnership to maintain good community relations and enjoy the benefits of being a cohesive borough.

The council supports the Inter Faith Forum, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Forum and Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minorities. This gives us the opportunity to work closely with community representatives from diverse backgrounds to ensure that everyone has a voice, to get a better understanding of community concerns and actively promote community cohesion.

We also work closely with the Police to promote community safety and encourage local residents to report hate crimes and get involved in Police engagement forums such as the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

The council has issued a joint statement with the police to reassure the community that we will not tolerate any form of racist behaviour in Merton. We are also encouraging everyone to wear a safety pin as a symbol of solidarity against racism. This is part of a national campaign and is a very simple way to show support for all members of Merton's diverse community.

The Council resolves to continue its commitment to work together and demonstrate that with unity we can combat hate and extremism and continue to have a borough where residents peacefully coexist

**Councillor Oonagh Moulton**

**Councillor Stephen Alambritis**

**Councillor Peter Southgate**

**Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes**

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