

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

12 July 2022



**Subject:** Motions for Debate from Individual Members

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4 G of the Constitution).

**A. Councillors Liz Clements and Jayne Francis have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

**“The Council notes that:**

- Shift work is widespread in many industries, particularly hospitality, and can often entail late-night working.
- Many workers, especially women, are increasingly worried about their safety travelling to and from work at night.
- The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner’s Women’s safety survey, conducted in 2021, found that 67% of respondents had felt unsafe on a bus, and 43% had felt unsafe in a taxi. 80% of respondents had expressed feeling unsafe following incidents such as cat calling, wolf whistling, up skirting or inappropriate behaviour, 93% did not report this to the police.
- A YouGov poll in 2019 about experiences of sexual harassment on public transport found that 37% of women had experienced someone ‘deliberately pressing against them’ compared to 12% of men, and 22% of women had a ‘sexual statement directed against them’ in comparison to 7% of men.
- Only 2% of victims go on to report sexual harassment on public transport.

**The Council believes that:**

- While employers may feel their duty of care to staff ends when an employee finishes a shift, they also need to take into consideration journeys home, especially during unsocial hours.
- Unite the union's 'Get Me Home Safely' campaign, which calls on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers get home safely from work at night, should be supported.
- The weakness of enforcement of the law against sexual assault on public transport, including up-skirting, is failing women and girls.
- Greater numbers of trained staff and stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport are urgently needed
- The Government's Safety of Women at Night Fund, which limits grants to only £300,000, is wholly inadequate to tackle the important issue of the safety of women and girls in public spaces, including public transport, at night and in the night-time economy.

**The Council resolves to:**

- Publicly call for improvement to late night and off-peak transport service provision.
- Publicly call for the lowering of fares and oppose any cuts to public transport funding, including the early ending of the Bus Recovery Grant, and call on the West Midlands Mayor to use his political platforms to achieve this.
- Publicly support Transport for West Midlands' evaluation of the options on the future delivery of bus services, including bus franchising.
- Lobby the government for stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport.
- Call on the West Midlands Mayor and the government to support Unite the Union's 'Get Me Home Safely' campaign."

**B. Councillors Bruce Lines and Darius Sandhu have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

"That this Council notes the concern of residents with the drastic increase in the number of off-road motor bikes and other mechanically propelled vehicles such as quad bikes within Birmingham. These vehicles, when inappropriately used, are a risk to public safety, create a noise nuisance for residents, deter cyclists and pedestrians and cause damage to parks and footways.

Therefore, the Council calls on the Executive to

- Introduce a City-Wide Public Space Protection Order, as has been done in authorities such as Coventry City Council and Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council to give the police more powers to tackle problems caused by off road motor vehicles.
- Implement noise triggered ANPR cameras in nuisance areas to catch those cars causing excessive noise.
- Assesses whether more stringent defensive measures could be taken to prevent off-road vehicles from causing a nuisance and damage to known sites and neighbourhoods.
- Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to dedicate more resources to tackling this issue and notes the hard work officers are doing to tackle this issue already.”