22/23-128

From: Lisa Cooper
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:58 AM
To: Clerks

Subject: Debate not Hate Campaign

Dear Parish and Town Clerks,

You may already be aware and indeed, you may already have considered this at your parish and town council, but the Local Government Association have launched a Debate not Hate campaign.

https://www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/debate-not-hate

The Debate Not Hate campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the responses and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation.

Rother District Council moved the following Motion at the full Council meeting held on 20 February 2023:

The Council resolved to:

- write to our local Members of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign;
- write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians;
- regularly review the support available to Councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and Councillor safety through the Member Development Task Group;
- work with the local Police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of Councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that Councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs;
- take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of Councillors and officers in all forms of communication, be it at face-to-face meetings, at online or telephone meetings, in written communication; in verbal communication and in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments; and
- encourage all Parish and Town Councils across the Rother District to sign up to the LGA's campaign.

I hope that you will bring this campaign to the attention of your Council.

Kind regards

Lisa

Lisa Cooper
Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

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