

14. NOTICE OF MOTION - CIVILITY IN PUBLIC LIFE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW MCGUIRE

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor Andrew McGuire in the following terms :-

“Council notes with dismay the increasingly febrile nature of political discourse across the United Kingdom which all too often reaches into our council chambers. Council agrees that politicians at all levels have a role to play in setting an example through their own behaviour and believes that whilst political debate may be robust, it should also be conducted with respect and civility.

Council commends the work done by COSLA to highlight the need for increased civility in political debate through its joint commitment to promote Civility in Public Life with the Local Government Association, Welsh Local Government Association and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association. Council also notes the joint production of the recent online guidance to encourage civility.

Council understands the detrimental impact of abusive behaviour on the wellbeing of individuals and indeed on democracy, undermining public trust in elected representatives.

Council therefore agrees to invite the COSLA President Cllr Alison Evison to the next meeting of West Lothian Council to present a summary of the work done by COSLA to date, any feedback received by COSLA on the experiences of councillors across Scotland and how this impact on COSLA efforts to encourage people from more diverse backgrounds to seek election to local government”.

- Moved by Councillor Andrew McGuire and seconded by Councillor David Dodds

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the motion