

**COUNCIL MEETING – 10 September 2025  
NOTICE OF MOTIONS 175, 176, 177 AND 178**

**COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34**

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
175	Councillor Storey	Councillor Clynch	<p>We welcome the Governments commitment to halve Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in the next decade. However, this bold ambition cannot be realised by national government alone – we need action from our local leaders to turn the tide on VAWG in our communities.</p> <p>An estimated one in four women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and an average of one woman per week is killed at the hands of their male partner or ex-partner (ONS, 2023).</p> <p>Annually, domestic abuse costs the public purse an estimated £78 billion per year (Women’s Aid, ResPublica, 2023).</p> <p>Attitudes towards healthy relationships in young people are also showing concerning trends, with research indicating a direct correlation between exposure to misogynistic social media content and unhealthy views on relationships (Women’s Aid, 2023). In addition to this, young people don’t know where to access support; a worrying 61% of children surveyed who said they would seek support if they experienced domestic abuse were unsure of where to go for help (Women’s Aid, 2023). Sexism and misogyny as the root causes of domestic abuse must be addressed through prevention work with children and young people.</p> <p>The importance of preserving specialist services</p> <p>Specialist domestic abuse services are independent from the state, and specifically designed to support survivors of domestic abuse, offering holistic and trauma informed wrap- around support. Often, they have a long history of supporting women within their local community and are embedded into referral pathways, working closely with other statutory services. 'By and for' services are run by and for the women they represent, making them uniquely placed to foster trust and meet the specific needs of survivors.</p> <p>Specialist services are not only best placed to support survivors, but they also reduce pressure on other local services, for every £1 invested in specialist domestic abuse services £9 is saved to the</p>

			<p>public purse (Women's Aid, 2023). Statutory guidance for the commissioning of domestic abuse services highlights the importance of commissioning specialist services and encourages flexible commissioning practices such as grant funding. However, competitive procurement practices, based on the assumption that domestic abuse services should operate within a competitive market, are threatening to erode our network of lifesaving specialist services</p> <p>This council commits to urgently address the epidemic of violence against women and girls. This council pledges to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report to Full Council within 12 months on the progress of actions it has undertaken to seek to fulfil the pledges of this motion.</li> <li>2. Work with survivors and local specialist and 'by and for' services to understand the impact of VAWG in Middlesbrough and develop a multi-agency strategy to address this.</li> <li>3. Ensure comprehensive education on healthy relationships is available in all schools across Middlesbrough.</li> <li>4. Conduct a review into Middlesbrough's procurement practices for commissioning VAWG services to ensure they align with statutory guidance and meet the needs of all survivors, including the most marginalised survivors and encourage our strategic partners to do the same.</li> <li>5. Change the Women's Champion role to a VAWG champion, to hold the council to account on these pledges and amplify the voice of survivors.</li> </ol>
176	Councillor Storey	Councillor Clynch	<p><u>Debate not hate motion</u></p> <p>The intimidation and abuse of Councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.</p> <p>This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and officers and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does. This council further agrees to sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of Councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation.</p>

			<p>In addition, this council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write to the local Members of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign. Letter to be sent from Council and to be sent within 28 days of the motion being passed.</li> <li>2. 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. Letter to be sent from Council and to be sent within 28 days of the motion being passed.</li> <li>3. Ensure the council has a clear reporting mechanism which councillors can use to can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment and abuse of councillors and officers. An email will be sent to all Councillors from the Monitoring Officer to advise of the process within 28 days of the motion being passed</li> <li>4. Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and Councillor safety. This will be reviewed annually.</li> <li>5. 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.</li> <li>6. Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of Councillors and officers. All incidents should be recorded in accordance with the process set out at point 3 above.</li> </ol>
177	Councillor J Platt	Councillor Storey	<p><u>Motion on the introduction of a Sports Persons Honours Board in Middlesbrough</u></p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middlesbrough has produced a remarkable number of elite athletes across a wide range of sports, who have represented England at a senior level, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Football: Brian Clough, Don Revie, Alan Peacock, Jonathan Woodgate, Stewart Downing</li> <li>- Rugby: Alan Old</li> <li>- Cricket: Chris Old, Bill Athey, Liam Plunkett</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Athletics: Chris Tomlinson, Richard Kilty</li> <li>- Table Tennis: Carol Knight, Paul Drinkhall, Dennis Neale</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That these sportsmen and woman should have their outstanding achievements of representing England at senior level in their respective sports formally recognised.</li> <li>• That the Council agrees in principle to commission and fund the creation of a permanent Honours Board listing the names of these individuals, and any others identified. Costs to be identified</li> <li>• That the Honours Board will be installed in a prominent location within Middlesbrough Town Centre, ensuring visibility and accessibility to residents and visitors alike.</li> <li>• That the Council consults with local historians, sports organisations, and community groups to compile a comprehensive and accurate list of qualifying individuals. The lead in liaising with the bodies and agreeing the initial list for the honours board will be Councillor Jim Platt.</li> </ul> <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <p>Formally recognise the outstanding achievements of sportsmen and sportswomen born in Middlesbrough who have represented England at senior level in their respective disciplines since the end of the Second World War.</p> <p>This will be by way of the introduction of a Sports Persons Honours Board which will serve as a public tribute to the town's sporting heritage, celebrating the talent and dedication of those who have brought national pride through their representation of England.</p> <p>These individuals exemplify Middlesbrough's rich sporting legacy and a dedicated Honours Board would not only celebrate their achievements but also inspire future generations.</p>
178	Councillor McTigue	Councillor S Platt	<p>This Council resolves to:</p> <p>Write to the government requesting it to carry out an urgent review of home schooling to ensure that:-</p>

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Any child so educated, receives a minimum level of education comparable with that which the child could have otherwise received, had the child been educated at an Ofsted inspected school.</li><li>2. Adequate child protection procedures are in place to ensure, so far as possible, that the child is safe and free from potential harm.</li><li>3. Ofsted has a requirement, to carry out inspections to assess the quality of education, care and training, to ensure that the parent, or whoever is providing the education, meet the required standards.</li><li>4. Public bodies such as the police and social services have a statutory right of access to ensure the safety and/or protection of the child.</li></ol>
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