

## **Proposed Amendment to Motion to Council: Supporting Women Councillors**

**Proposed by Mr Martin Tett**

**Seconded by Mrs J Teesdale**

This Council recognises the important work undertaken by The Fawcett Society in preparing the report 'Does Local Government work for women?', published in July 2017, as part of the Women in Local Government Commission.

[DELETE ALL SUBSEQUENT ORIGINAL MOTION TEXT AND INSERT INSTEAD THE FOLLOWING]

This council believes that Buckinghamshire should be a county where people can achieve and thrive on merit regardless of their gender, heritage, sexual orientation or faith. This council also notes that at present 37% of the Majority Group and 14% of the Opposition group are female. Also, over 10% of County Councillors come from BME heritage. It also notes with pride that this year both the Chairman of the County Council and the Vice Chairman are female. The council believes that selection as candidates for elections and appointment to positions should be open to all on the basis of talent and merit.

Nevertheless, more can always be done to encourage people from all backgrounds to consider standing for the County Council.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- **To ask officers to prepare a campaign in time for the next County elections designed to encourage candidates from all sections of the community and from all appropriate age categories.**
- **To ask officers to prepare a report on any barriers that are perceived to exist that might deter any candidates from considering standing for the county council and to propose what action might be appropriate to reduce or remove these perceived barriers.**
- **That any incident of inappropriate sexual behaviour is not acceptable and asks the Monitoring Officer to review the Code of Conduct for Members with Group Leaders to ensure that any accusations are taken seriously and appropriate action is taken.**
- **That existing county councillors should, where appropriate, contact their political parties and actively promote the merits of standing for the county council to potential candidates from all backgrounds.**