



WORTHING BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

Ward(s) Affected: All

**Motion on Notice**

**Report by the Interim Director for Communities**

**Executive Summary**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Sally Smith which has been seconded by Councillor Heather Mercer.
- 1.2. Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Council is asked to determine the motion as set out in Annex A to this report.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Sally Smith, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which affects the Borough.
- 3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.
- 3.4 The motion before Council is declaratory in nature, as defined in para 14.4.4 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it may be considered and debated by the Full Council without being automatically referred to a future meeting of Full Council, as defined in para 14.4.5 of the Council's Procedure Rules, or, being referred to the Executive or Committee without debate, as defined in paragraphs 14.4.1, 14.4.2 and 14.4.3 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council procedure rules and the Council is asked to debate the motion under these rules accordingly.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The motion is declaratory in nature and therefore there are no direct financial implications.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 As the motion is declaratory in nature, there are no direct legal implications arising from it.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Officer Contact Details:-**

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**Motion to Council**

This Council recognises that violence against women and girls can include, or be linked to, domestic abuse. This is often a hidden crime unreported to the police and although both men and women are affected, incidence and severity are much greater for women. Domestic and family violence can affect well being and developmental growth of children and teenagers both in the short and long term.

The Coronavirus pandemic has further caused what one worker described as 'an epidemic beneath a pandemic' The charity Refuge reports that in the year between February 2020 and March 2021 72% of calls to their helpline were from women who said they were experiencing violence and abuse, and nearly a fifth said their abuser had threatened to kill them. Tragically, statistics show that more female homicide victims are killed by a partner or ex-partner than by strangers.

It is imperative we learn from and act on the weaknesses in our systems and structures the pandemic has so starkly exposed. The Council has a well developed network of support via the Wellbeing team, links with the Police, the Housing needs team plus connection with Worth, West Sussex specialist services and the Women's accommodation support officer. This Council together with all parts of society should play their part in tackling domestic violence'.

***Proposed by Cllr Sally Smith***

***Seconded by Cllr Heather Mercer***