

Police and Community Safety Motion

To be moved by Councillor Anjana Patel and seconded by Councillor Paul Osborn:

“Harrow Council notes the recent reforms ~~and improvements~~ to the police across England and Wales since 2019. This council ~~is grateful for~~ has observed consecutive Conservative Governments implement austerity cuts of more than 23 thousand police officers from streets across England and Wales since 2010. The worst of the cuts were inflicted in the Metropolitan Police during Boris Johnson’s term as Mayor of London.

In 2019, crime rocketed to the highest levels it has ever been. In response, the Conservative Government under Boris Johnson u-turned on their cuts to policing and refilled the 3,109 more police officers in London, as a part of the mere over 15,300 more police officers replenished in England and Wales recruited since the worse of the cuts. 2019. The Council notes that an attempt is being made by the Government to return to pre-austerity pre 2010 policing levels.

Harrow Council calls ~~and calls~~ on the government to ~~continue its drive to have~~ confirm that they will not press forward with new cuts to policing in 2023, considering the current cost of living emergency and the harsh Autumn Budget announced by Chancellor Jeremy Hunt. ~~recruited an extra 20,000 police officers by 2023.~~

This Council notes:

- The change to national policy that will see every report of home burglary having a police visit, ensuring that every victim of such an invasive crime will be given the attention they deserve
- Residents’ concern about the impact that the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act will have on their freedom of expression, rights and civil liberties such as the right to protest, something that is enjoyed by all of us. ~~illegal and disruptive protests have had on our country in recent years.~~

Considering the diversity of the London Borough of Harrow, the Council notes the disproportionate unfair impact these draconian measures will have on Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority people.

- That the- ~~Government Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act~~ took three long years to support our Police by putting the Police Covenant on the statue books, and only after a Labour amendment did the Government finally protect all police forces in the Police, Crime and Sentencing and Courts Act not just those serving in the Home Office. ~~has strengthened the power that police have tackling such action~~

- The Conservative Government voted against Labour’s proposals to increase minimum sentences for rapists, stalkers and those who break the anonymity of rape survivors, against making it easier for victims of rape and sexual violence to give evidence, against a new offence of street sexual harassment, against committing to make misogyny a hate crime and against toughening sentences for domestic abusers and murderers. ~~The further positive impacts of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act on dealing with sexual offences, including extending the scope of the offences in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, providing greater powers for the management of sex offenders and toughening around child sex offences. The Bill pushes higher sentences for damaging a statue than the minimum sentence for rape.~~

-There are good and important reforms in the bill. Some of the best measures come from campaigns by Labour MPs: Stephanie Peacock on dangerous driving, Chris Bryant and Holly Lynch on protecting Emergency Service Workers, John Spellar on reform of the DBS scheme and Sarah Champion on

sexual abuse by people in positions of trust. We support these measures and those taken from the Lammy Review.

- The ~~substantial~~ increase of police funding to £16.9 billion, part of which will be used to give every police officer a £1,900 uplift in their salary this year
- Under Mayor Sadiq Khan's tenure at City Hall, the Conservatives reduced the budget of the Mayor of London and forcibly closed -38 police stations ~~have been closed~~, reducing the visibility of local policing. We note that this doesn't come close to the 68 police stations that Boris Johnson closed during his tenure.
- ~~Mayor Khan has increased his office budget by over 60% since 2016 and now costs the London taxpayer over £6 million. The Mayor of London's office adds value to the lives of the people of London, for example Mayor Sadiq Khan has funded 1,300 more police independently of the Conservative Government.~~

The Conservatives talk tough on crime but, they've spent the last decade denying police forces the resources they need to keep the public safe since 2010.

This Council resolves to:

- Lobby ~~Cooperate with~~ the government ~~to secure~~ future funding for our local police service and make sure that the proposed uplift in the salary promised to police officers is not yet another - policy U-Turn
- Support officers new to the area through providing forums for them to meet with residents
- Provide resources for residents to keep in contact with new police officers in the area
- Call on the Conservative Government Mayor Khan to slash his office budget and stop the tax cuts for bankers profits, and to reinvest the funding in further extra policing across our Borough including—such as a dedicated Harrow Town Centre Police Team."

Proposer: Cllr Peymana Assad

Secunder: Cllr Shahania Choudhury