

MOTION TO COUNCIL OCT 2009

Proposed by Cllr David Ashton, Cllr Bill Stephenson, Cllr Chris Noyce

Seconded by Cllr Susan Hall, Cllr Phillip O'Dell, Cllr Paul Scott

This Council deplores the holding of an 'anti-Mosque demonstration' on Sept 11, and congratulates the police, all Council staff and the Central Mosque as well as the residents of Harrow for the dignified and controlled way they handled themselves thus ensuring that the 'demonstration' passed off relatively peacefully.

Council, further, expresses its appreciation for the motion passed by Brent Council on September 14 in support of Harrow and its residents as well as its appreciation for the organisation of the Unity Walk and Vigil organised by the Council on October 11.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to make these congratulations and its appreciation widely known to all those concerned.

Council deplores the proposal for a further 'anti-Mosque demonstration' on December 13 which is likely to lead to violence, severe disruption to Harrow residents and very large expense for the Police and the Council.

Council calls on the organisers to cancel this 'demonstration' and, failing this, Council pledges that working together with the Police, the Central Mosque, faith groups and local residents to do everything in its power to minimise any violence and disruption. In particular, Council instructs the Chief Executive to take up as a matter of urgency the offer by the Home Secretary to meet a high-level delegation from Harrow to discuss the proposed demonstration.

This Council agrees to adopt a Declaration of Unity as follows:

We, the people who live and work in Harrow, are united in our commitment to the Borough.

We are proud of Harrow, the diversity and integrity of our people and our common purpose in building a safe, prosperous and healthy Borough.

We cherish our tradition of welcoming visitors and newcomers and our dedication to building stronger communities.

We stand together to reject all those who bring division or hatred within or without Harrow on whatever grounds.

We accept the rights and responsibilities of our commitment to Harrow: to show dignity and respect to all who live and visit here and to reject intolerance in all its forms.