

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 18 JANUARY 2023  
title: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION DEBATE NOT HATE CAMPAIGN  
submitted by: HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
principal author: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider whether to sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Seven in ten councillors reported experiencing abuse or intimidation in the last year according to the LGA's 2022 councillor census. LGA state they are starting to build a picture of the level of abuse and intimidation councillors receive on a daily basis for simply carrying out the role in their community.

### 3 ACTION BEING TAKEN BY LGA

- 3.1 The LGA has launched a new toolkit which outlines different ways councils and councillors can support the Debate Not Hate campaign objectives and take action.
- 3.2 Since launching the Debate Not Hate campaign in June at the LGA's annual conference, over 400 councillors have signed up to LGA's public statement where councils are committing to tackle this issue, publicly denouncing the unacceptable abuse councillors and officers face.
- 3.3 LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the responses and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation.
- 3.4 The LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign also aims to tackle the abuse and intimidation councillors face from the public for carrying out their role. The new Debate Not Hate toolkit is aimed at engaging councillors and councils with the campaign suggesting actions to push for change and raise awareness of this important issue.
- 3.5 The campaign promotes the use of several posters, banners, press releases and backgrounds.

### 4 ISSUES

- 4.1 With the local elections planned for May 2023, the use of this campaign may be timely for internal and external communications.

### 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Agree to support the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign.

HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

P3-23/DES/AC  
5 January 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Debate Not Hate Guidelines attached