Glasgow Against Online Hate – Motion as adjusted approved.

13 Councillor Hussain, seconded by Bailie Jenkins, moved that

"Council reaffirms Glasgow's proud history as a city of diversity, solidarity, and anti-racism, and reiterates its firm stance against all forms of hatred, discrimination, and extremism.

Council condemns the rise of far-right ideology across the UK and Europe, including the increasing spread of extremist narratives through social media and online platforms. Council is deeply concerned by the use of digital spaces to promote racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, and other forms of hate.

Council is also alarmed by recent reports from organisations such as Hope Not Hate and the Centre for Countering Digital Hate, which highlight the growing influence of far-right figures online, and the real-world harm that online hate can fuel - including harassment, intimidation, and violence.

Council reaffirms that Glasgow is a city of inclusion, compassion, and equality for all who live here, regardless of race, religion, background, or identity.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Publicly reaffirm its opposition to extremism.
2. Work with community organisations, equalities groups, and education providers to raise awareness of the dangers of far-right extremism and online hate.
3. Support national efforts to strengthen regulation of online platforms and tackle the spread of harmful and extremist content online.
4. Write to the UK and Scottish Governments urging further action to tackle online hate speech, protect communities targeted by the far right, and support public education on the dangers of extremism.
5. Agrees to write to the Scottish Government, COSLA, and the Standards Commission for Scotland to request the development of formal guidance and support mechanisms - similar to those promoted by the Local Government Association in England - to protect councillors from online abuse, ensure appropriate reporting mechanisms are in place, and offer mental health and digital safety support to affected members.
6. Give renewed impetus to reviewing the social media platforms utilised by Glasgow City Council to enhance civil discourse, and how it can effectively maintain communication with the people of Glasgow considering a range of means, including local media, local community networks, websites, print and post."

Bailie Christie, seconded by Councillor Campbell moved as an amendment:-

(1) at paragraph 2, insert "anti-Irish racism" between "antisemitism, Islamophobia";

(2) at the end of paragraph 2, insert

"– and condemns this and the use of online and other media by any elected member to spread fear and hate."; and

(3) in the final paragraph after bullet 3 "Support national efforts", insert a new bullet point

"Learn from international best practice through engagement with the Eurocities network and Nordic Safer Cities initiative."

Bailie Hoy, seconded by Bailie Carroll, moved as an amendment:-

(1) after paragraph 3 ending "and violence.", insert new additional paragraph:

"Council welcomes the work of the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics to make politics less toxic and safer for elected representatives."; and

(2) at the end of the bulleted list, add 4 additional actions:

"7 Encourage elected members to engage with briefings on Operation Ford and to sign up to the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics Civility Pledge.

8. Explore the viability of offering a similar service to that offered to Council staff, such as counselling sessions to elected members who have been the targets of significant levels of abuse, to allow them to process the trauma they have experienced and to continue to fulfil the requirements of their role effectively.
9. Work with Police Scotland on crime prevention surveys for elected members' work and home space where elected members are concerned about a threat to their wellbeing.
10. Call on the Ethical Standards Commissioner to closely examine organised complaints campaigns and have due regard to the fact that they might be contributing to organised or stochastic harassment."

During the debate Councillor Hussain, Bailie Christie and Bailie Hoy, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:

Council reaffirms Glasgow's proud history as a city of diversity, solidarity, and anti-racism, and reiterates its firm stance against all forms of hatred, discrimination, and extremism.

Council is deeply concerned by the use of digital spaces to promote racism, antisemitism, anti-Irish racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, and other forms of hate – and condemns this and the use of online and other media by any elected member to spread fear and hate.

Council is also alarmed by recent reports from organisations such as Hope Not Hate and the Centre for Countering Digital Hate, which highlight the growing influence of far-right figures online, and the real-world harm that online hate can fuel - including harassment, intimidation, and violence.

Council welcomes the work of the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics to make politics less toxic and safer for elected representatives.

Council reaffirms that Glasgow is a city of inclusion, compassion, and equality for all who live here, regardless of race, religion, background, or identity.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Publicly reaffirm its opposition to extremism.
2. Work with community organisations, equalities groups, and education providers to raise awareness of the dangers of far-right extremism and online hate.
3. Support national efforts to strengthen regulation of online platforms and tackle the spread of harmful and extremist content online.
4. Write to the UK and Scottish Governments urging further action to tackle online hate speech, protect communities targeted by the far right, and support public education on the dangers of extremism.
5. Learn from international best practice through engagement with the Eurocities network and Nordic Safer Cities initiative.
6. Agrees to write to the Scottish Government, COSLA, and the Standards Commission for Scotland to request the development of formal guidance and support mechanisms – similar to those promoted by the Local Government Association in England – to protect councillors from online abuse, ensure appropriate reporting mechanisms are in place, and offer mental health and digital safety support to affected members.
7. Give renewed impetus to reviewing the social media platforms utilised by Glasgow City Council to enhance civil discourse, and how it can effectively maintain communication with the people of Glasgow considering a range of means, including local media, local community networks, websites, print and post.
8. Encourage elected members to engage with briefings on Operation Ford and to sign up to the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics Civility Pledge.
9. Explore the viability of offering a similar service to that offered to Council staff, such as counselling sessions to elected members who have been the targets of significant levels of abuse, to allow them to process the trauma they have experienced and to continue to fulfil the requirements of their role effectively.
10. Work with Police Scotland on crime prevention surveys for elected members' work and home space where elected members are concerned about a threat to their wellbeing.
11. Call on the Ethical Standards Commissioner to closely examine organised complaints campaigns and have due regard to the fact that they might be contributing to organised or stochastic harassment.

The motion, as adjusted, was unanimously approved.