

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting 30 November 2023

Labour Group Motion on safe travel home for night economy workers

To be proposed by Cllr Lesley Mansell

1. Council notes:

- the campaign initiated by Unite the Union called: 'Get me home safely' to ensure safe home transport is widely available for night time economy and shift workers who often struggle to find and pay for transport home after midnight.
- the campaign's call on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers are able to get home safely from work at night
- that shift work is widespread in many industries, particularly hospitality, as well as health and care workers, retail, cleaning, security and porter staff, and can often entail late-night working;
- and that many workers, especially women, are increasingly worried about their safety when travelling to and from work at night;
- only 2% of victims report sexual harassment on public transport.

2. Council believes that:

- while employers may feel their duty of care to staff ends when an employee finishes a shift, they should take into consideration journeys home, especially during unsocial hours;
- the weakness of enforcement of the law against sexual assault, including up-skirting, on public transport is appalling, and
- greater numbers of trained staff and stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport are urgently needed;
- Such a move would significantly benefit the safety and wellbeing of hospitality workers, particularly women, who often cannot afford, or access, safe transport options late at night and will also benefit our community.
- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

3. Council therefore calls on Bath and North East Somerset Council to:

- use its powers (where possible) – as others have done – to allow our Licensing Committee to include additional criteria when considering late opening applications from licensed premises, encouraging venues to provide free transport home for night shift employees;
- Campaign for & encourage improvements to late night and off-peak transport service provision, as well the lowering of fares;
- oppose any cuts to public transport funding and for our elected officials to use their powers and political platforms to achieve this;
- support calls for the municipal ownership of buses in order to lower prices and improve service provision, including safety provision, especially for night-time and off-peak services;
- call on our local MPs to make representation to the Government and other appropriate authorities at regional and local levels of governance to bring forward national minimum standards for taxis and private hire as per the recommendations of the Department of Transport independent Taxi & Licencing group, Unite's Get Me Home Safely campaign, in support of this motion and its demands on behalf of our local community.

Background:

More about the Unite campaign [HERE](#).

More about the Dept of Transport's report here: [Task and Finishing group](#),

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