

COUNCIL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2006

Amendment to Motion O (2005/6)

Delete all after "is unacceptably high" and insert

“and notes that over 5800 convictions were secured in 2004 (the last year for which figures are available) for carrying an offensive weapon (a category which may include knives and bladed weapons), an offence carrying a penalty of up to 4 years imprisonment.

This Council notes that the Liberal Democrats have referred to the "scandal of prison overcrowding" and rejects a policy that would lead to people who happened to be carrying a knife filling our prisons for seven years each, while the maximum penalty for actual bodily harm remains at five years.

This Council believes that the Labour Government's decision not to enter into a Dutch auction on prison sentencing policy to garner headlines, but instead to tackle at source the roots of knife and gun crime, through building respect in our communities and promoting safer streets for all, is the correct policy and reflects the Labour Movement's emphasis on tackling the causes of crime not just the symptoms.

This Council deplores the decision of Liberal Democrats on the Greater London Assembly last week, to vote against introducing Safer Neighbourhoods teams for every ward in London this April; deplores the policy of the Liberal Democrats to legalise buying alcohol at the age of 16, regrets the support of the Liberal Democrats for giving convicted murderers the vote, and most of all deplores the repeated efforts by the Opposition to make up simplistic policies for our communities on the back of an envelope.

This Council therefore endorses and supports the government's temperate and proportionate approach and welcomes the introduction of new policing teams for every ward by London's Labour Mayor.

This Council therefore supports neighbourhood policing in every ward as a central part of ensuring our communities are safer and as a key pillar of our strategy for reducing knife and gun crime in our communities.

This Council is committed to working with the Mayor to deliver neighbourhood policing in every ward in Haringey by May of this year”.

Proposed Councillor Takki Sulaiman
Seconded Councillor Alan Dobbie