

COUNCIL – 22 JANUARY 2025 CLLR INNES MOTION TO COUNCIL

MOTION

Motion submitted by Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Tony Riordan to second:-

Council notes that:

Recent reports into the grooming/child rape gang scandal that has rocked communities across the UK are deeply concerning.

The lack of formal review into this scandal fails to ensure justice for the victims and punishment for the perpetrators.

Neighbouring Middlesbrough has been named as One of 50 Towns Where Child Exploitation Gangs Have Operated.

There is public desire to see this matter properly investigated with a recent survey suggesting 76% of Britons support an inquiry.

Council believes that:

- We have a duty to protect innocent and vulnerable youngsters from exploitation.
- This is a scandal that should be rooted out entirely and investigated by the full might of the British state.
- This matter transcends party politics and is something we should be united in not only condemning but ensuring a full inquiry is undertaken.
- The safeguarding minister Jess Phillips' decision to block a public inquiry into the Oldham grooming gangs is inexplicable.
- The full force of the law is used to ensure those at the heart of these 'gangs' are brought to justice, and a review undertaken into the failings of authorities to protect victims.

Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive write separately to the Prime Minister & Home Secretary to outline the Council's desire for the Government to enact a full public inquiry in to Grooming Gangs.
- That the Leader of the Council engages with local stakeholders and meets with them alongside other Group Leaders to discuss what this Council can do to robustly support and protect young people of this borough most at risk."