

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council

**Get Me Home Safely**

Shift work is widespread in many industries, such as hospitality, care services, the NHS, and retail, to name but a few. Such work can and does often entail early morning and late-night working. Likewise, many young people travelling to and from school, college or university face a long walk to their place of study because of huge cuts to public transport and the rising costs of fares.

Many workers, particularly women, are increasingly worried about their safety travelling to and from work. If we consider Office of National Statistics (ONS) National figures from November 2022, around 36,000 women in Plymouth have had to deal with some form of sexual harassment. Violent crime makes up 40.7% of crime in the city - this is violence toward women, girls, men and boys.

UNITE are running the 'Get Me Home Safely' campaign, which calls on employers to take all reasonable steps to ensure workers get home safely from work at night. We would hope all councillors support this campaign but we are calling for Council to go further to make it safe for everyone to travel around the city, enabling them to work, learn and socialise safely.

In accordance with the Violence Against Women and Girls Policy greater numbers of trained staff and stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport are urgently needed, as the enforcement of the law is currently failing women and girls.

The Government's Safety of Women at Night Fund, which limits grants to only £300,000, is wholly inadequate to tackle the important issue of the safety of women and girls in public spaces, including public transport, at night and in the night-time economy.

Plymouth City Council resolves to:

1. Publicly call for improvement to late night and off-peak transport service provision through the Local Transport Authority as well as other appropriate transport services in Plymouth and its surrounding areas.
2. To instruct the appropriate Scrutiny Panel to look at the concerns raised and to make recommendations for how we make our city safer.
3. Lobby the Government and the Police Crime and Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall for stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport.

Proposed by: Councillor Zoe Reilly

Signature: Approved by email.

Seconded by: Councillor Eddie Rennie

Signature: Approved by email.