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## **SPECIAL MOTION NO. 6 – THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT’S FAILING JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Rebecca Harvey
- (ii) Councillor Max Schmid

The Council is deeply concerned that crime is rising nationally.

- The crime rate is up by 5.86%.
- Police-recorded violence is up 13% from nearly 1.8 million cases to more than 2 million in 2021.
- The number of police-recorded sexual offences has increased to its highest level at 183,587 cases, a 22% increase on 2020.
- 37% of sexual offences recorded are rape and more rape is being reported, yet according to the Victims Commissioner for England and Wales the number of prosecutions has fallen nearly 60%.

The Council is concerned that there are insufficient police due to the government’s ideological programme of austerity. There are now only 142,526 police officers, a reduction of nearly a fifth from the 172,000 officers in 2009 under the last Labour Government.

The council notes that there is a disastrous Court backlog of 58,271 cases waiting to be heard, with closures of courts and underfunding of the criminal justice system, court buildings in disrepair and court estates being sold off when there is clearly a need for them. Last year, 567 criminal trials could not go ahead as there were no barristers to prosecute and defend the cases.

The Council supports the proactive measures that Hammersmith & Fulham’s Labour administration has taken to mitigate the damaging performance of the Conservative government on crime and make our streets safer. These include:

- Investing £5.5 million on CCTV to improve and grow the borough’s 24/7 network of [CCTV](#) cameras over the next five years;
- Creating the country’s largest council Law Enforcement Team, with 72 LET officers who are working to make our streets safer and have responded to more than 4,000 calls from residents and businesses;
- Investing in a specialised Gangs Unit dedicated to safeguarding children and young people; and
- Engaging dedicated officers to support women and girls.

The council recognises the dedication and the effectiveness of its Community Safety and Law Enforcement Teams in working to make residents safer.

The council calls on the government to fund the police and criminal justice system so that residents and those that come to work in and visit Hammersmith and Fulham feel safe and protected.