

## **Question to the Leader of the Council**

I would like the following submitted as a question to the leader for the March 2024 full council meeting

I would like to ask the leader a question about the idea of creating a misogyny working group at our council. Misogyny, as defined by Oxford Languages, is the dislike of, contempt for, or ingrained prejudice against women. Some of the things I would view as misogynistic include being told to smile or cheer up when all the men around a woman are allowed to look miserable, views that women can never be funnier than men, or some of society's view that sexual assaults can be excused if the woman was wearing a skirt or dress and was under the influence of alcohol.

Whilst women should never all be counted under one homogenous group, considering our differing opinions, morals and lived experience, I do believe it would be pertinent to put together this working group to give us chance to explore what, whether it be small or big, can be done to challenge and tackle misogyny.

This may explore women's experiences in council and public life, the implementation of menopause awareness and guidance here at the council, how meeting schedules might affect women with caring and/ or working responsibilities as well as investigate methods to action plans to improve women's safety, such as the Ask For Angela or Reclaim Blackpool schemes.

So, I ask the leader whether he would be happy to endorse setting up this misogyny working group as I strongly there is a lot more that can be done when it comes to challenging and tackling misogyny.

Kind regards,

**Councillor Emma Stevens**