


Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

4 October 2019

Subject:	Report relating to a review of the personal safety of Elected Members
Director:	Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Phil Challoner Phil_challoner@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee: -

1. Note the issues raised from a review which looked at the personal safety of Elected Members in pursuance of their role and consider emerging recommendations (report and associated recommendations enclosed).

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee to note the outcomes of a review looking into the personal safety and wellbeing of Elected Members in pursuance of their roles.
- 1.2 To consider recommendations emerging from the review.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 Elected Members need to feel safe and assured when carrying out their roles including the fulfilment of expectations relating to the delivery of Vision 2030 ambitions.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Please refer to the enclosed report.

4 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 4.1 All Elected Members received a short survey relating to surgeries. Meetings have taken place with two former Cabinet Members and with a minority of other Elected Members to seek their views on the current issues relating to personal safety.
- 4.2 Discussions have taken place with specialist officers from WM Police to seek their professional advice and guidance as part of this review.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 All appropriate options relating to the personal safety of Elected Members have been considered which have led to the recommendations for consideration.

6 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Costing implications associated with the purchase of personal safety devices are featured within the enclosed report for consideration.
- 6.2 Costs associated with resourcing, if required, risk assessments at Elected Member surgeries plus funding any recommendations which arise need to be considered.
- 6.3 Other costs associated with training and materials will be met from existing budgets.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 A review of personal safety commenced following concerns raised from some Elected Members and now forms part of the Member Development Programme.
- 7.2 The Member Development Programme has a specific element dedicated to 'support' which includes the health and wellbeing of Elected Members.
- 7.3 Awareness raising relating to personal safety is ongoing via Member Development bulletins and training is scheduled for 19 and 28 November 2019. Refresher training will be factored in to the Member Development Programme and scheduled from 2020.
- 7.4 Elected Members have a right to feel as safe and secure as possible when carrying out their role on behalf of the residents they serve.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 There are no Equality Act implications and issues arising from this review.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Data and information gathered during the review has not been attributed to individual Elected Members.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

10.1 Information related to current or potential crime and disorder have been assessed during the review.

10.2 A process to carry out appropriate risk assessments will form part of the incident reporting procedure as and when required resources permitting.

10.3 Information from WM Police indicate no current increase in incidents affecting the personal safety of elected members.

10.4 Information relating to regional and national trends relating to personal safety of elected members is currently being sourced, however, research undertaken as part of the review has not revealed anything of concern to date.

11 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

11.1 Appropriate processes, procedures and review milestones will be built in to the incident reporting process referred to in the report. Training and support will be reviewed as part of the Member Development Programme yearly.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 The Member Development Programme incorporates support associated with health and wellbeing.

13 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

13.1 There are no such implications arising.

14 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 Please refer to the enclosed report.

15 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

15.1 Please refer to the enclosed report.

16 **APPENDICES:**

16.1 Please refer to the enclosed report