

Report to Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

24 January 2024

Subject:	Member's Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Checks Update
Director:	Assistant Director Legal and Assurance and Monitoring Officer – Mike Jones
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the updated position on completion of Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks for Members is noted.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The report provides an update on the progress of obtaining DBS checks for members in accordance with the DBS protocol.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>The Council's ethical governance framework and arrangements support the Council toward achieving its strategic objectives and ambition.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Committee has oversight of the Council's ethical governance framework, which includes oversight of the implementation of the DBS Protocol for Members.
- 4.2 On 28th March 2023, the Council approved the protocol for DBS checks for members, which requires the following:
- Subject to them meeting the DBS eligibility criteria, enhanced DBS checks for the following members:
 - The Leader
 - Deputy Leader
 - Cabinet for Adults and Childrens
 - All Members of Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board and Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Board
 - Members of the Corporate Parenting Board
 - Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and
 - Any other Member who come into contact with children or vulnerable adults as part of their Council role and meet the frequency of contact set forth in legislation.
 - Basic DBS checks for all other members

The position as of 15th January 2024 is as follows:

Basic checks

Stage	Number
Completed and checked by the relevant Officer	20
Online Form Completed – awaiting ID check	6
Online form not yet completed	15
Total	41



Enhanced DBS – Adults Workforce (14)

Stage	Number
Completed and checked by the relevant Officer	9
Online Form Completed – awaiting return from DBS	1
Online Form Completed – awaiting ID check	2
Online form not yet completed	2
Total	14

Enhanced DBS – Childrens Workforce (17)

In relation to the remaining roles for Enhanced DBS checks, the Council continues to liaise with the DBS to determine whether they will process such requests in view of the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Disclosure and Barring Regime published in February 2023. A response from the DBS is awaited.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 None

6 Implications

Resources:	The Council is required to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to the Monitoring Officer in order that they are able to exercise their statutory functions. Three Officers in the Governance Team are allocated to undertake ID checks to progress the DBS checks for members.
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Legal and Governance:	Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. DBS checks of members promotes such high standards.
Risk:	There is a risk that not all members will comply with the protocol and there is no statutory requirement for members to undergo DBS checks.
Equality:	There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.
Social Value	There are no direct social value implications arising from this report.
Climate Change	There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting	There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

7. Appendices

None

8. Background Papers

None

