



Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Standards Committee Council
Meeting date:	1 st March 2022 16 th March 2022
Title of report:	Member Safety and Social Media Policies.
Report by:	Council Monitoring Officer – Jacqui Dennis
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

Following the death of the Member of Parliament David Amess, the Chief Executive requested a Member Safety group be established; the membership included – the Labour whip, Conservative whip, Mayor and Councillor Mason. The primary function of the Group was to review current safety guidance supported by the Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services; the group met on the 9th December 2021.

The purpose of the first meeting was to take soundings from Elected Members as to the nature and extent of their safety concerns. Following the first meeting Members fed back to their respective groups. On speaking to Officers and taking soundings from Elected Members, Members did not express any overt safety concerns but agreed revised safety guidance would be welcomed.

Members agreed that a draft member safety guidance could not be considered without a review of the Members Social Media policy. Updated of both policies are attached for Elected Members consideration.

Members agreed that revised Member Safety Guidance would be presented to the March meeting of Full Council.

Recommendation(s)

That: the Committee note the Member safety guidance and social media policy and provide feedback prior to consideration at Full Council on 16th March 2022.

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>

**Please note: Approval of a cabinet report is paused when the 'Equality/Diversity implications' section is left blank and approval will only be considered when this section is completed.*

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation

Consultation:

Legal Implications:

There are no Legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

There are no Financial implications arising from this report.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Julie Gallagher Head of Democratic Services.
