

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

ELECTED MEMBERS PERSONAL SAFETY

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members on actions taken to review and enhance personal safety for Elected Members, including the Elected Members PeopleSafe lone worker App deployment.

Information

Members Induction Programme

2. Following the elections in May 2021, Members have been undertaking a comprehensive induction programme developed by a Members Working Group reporting into Governance and Ethics Committee. This included health and safety and personal safety modules. The deployment of the lone worker App was part of this programme, planned for the Autumn of 2021. This followed a pilot and subsequent roll out of the App to critical front line staff.

Personal safety review background

3. Following the tragic death of MP Sir David Amess on the 15 October 2021, Members' personal safety arrangements have been reviewed together with an acceleration of the PeopleSafe lone working App roll out.
4. Over the last week health and safety colleagues have liaised with the police, specifically Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs), and have an established line of communication enabling appropriate action to be taken in the event of any specific or elevated threat to Elected Members. The general message at present is to remain vigilant.
5. A UK Protect bulletin titled Leigh-On-Sea incident update was circulated Friday 22 October summarising the police investigation. Advice notes from both the Local Government Association (LGA) and Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) have been made available to Members via electronic link, these materials have previously been signposted in internal training events.
6. Links to online LGIU webinars – 'Personal Safety' and 'Beyond Conflict Resolution' have been circulated for events held on the 28 October as supplementary information for Members.

7. Information sharing on Members' security has taken place with Nottingham City and District Councils with a view to communicating best practice. This work continues.
8. Members are able to seek further advice on any security concerns from health and safety colleagues who will be able to offer advice, seek further advice themselves or put Members in direct contact with other colleagues who work in this area.

PeopleSafe mobile phone App deployment

9. Members have been contacted regarding options for the App deployment, this offers options of either deploying the App to:
 - A NCC issued mobile phone
 - A personal mobile phone
 - Another authority mobile phone i.e. District Council issue (delays may be encountered whilst permissions are sought)
 - or the Member confirms that the App is not required.
10. Once a preference is received from each Member, the provider (PeopleSafe) forward links for App download and training support. Members will then be able to download the PeopleSafe App and familiarise themselves with its capability.
11. Initial escalation plans default to the police but can be amended to suit Members own arrangements.
12. As of 25 October, 24 preference returns had been received. The initial response by date of 29 October has been indicated after which follow up calls are to be made where no response has been recorded.
13. A supporting action plan is attached as Appendix A.

Other Options Considered

14. A range of options have been considered in reviewing current arrangements. Doing nothing was not considered an option, particularly as some Members have raised concerns previously.

Reasons for Recommendations

15. The Council has a duty of care for Elected Members including personal safety arrangements. Advice received to date recommends a review of current arrangements in the context of recent events.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below.

Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Data Protection and Information Governance

17. There are no implications arising directly from this report as no individual or personal data or information is used.

Financial Implications

18. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report as the training and deployment of the App were already planned and budgeted for.

Human Resources Implications

19. These are outlined in the body of the report. The health and safety support provided in line with government guidance aims to ensure the continued health, safety and wellbeing of Elected Members.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

20. The proposals in this report meet the Council's existing commitment to meeting, and where possible exceeding, the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) Members consider the actions taken to date and as set out in the Action Plan in Appendix 1 and identify if any additional actions are required.
- 2) An update on progress is contained within the next Health and Safety update report to this Committee.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (EKH 26/10/2021)

21. This report is appropriate to be considered by Personnel Committee and they have the power to make any resolution resultant upon the recommendation.

Financial Comments (KRP 26/10/2021)

22. As set out in the report there are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals.

HR Comments (JP 26/10/2021)

23. Any HR implications are contained in the body of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All