

<b>MEMBER SAFETY</b>	
<b>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b> <b>15 February 2017</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b> <b>OPEN</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b> <b>ALL WARDS</b>	
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR</b> <b>TIM SHIELDS - CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1. This report provides an update with regards to Member safety, with particular regard to personal safety at ward surgeries.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Standards Committee is recommended to note the update with regards to member safety.

### **3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

3.1 To note.

### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

4.1 The report provides an update with regards to member safety.

4.2 The financial impact of this report is minimal and the future costs of safety measures such as ad hoc security identified within paragraph 6.5 will be contained within the existing budget.

### **5. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**

5.1 The Council has a duty of care to take such steps as is reasonable to keep Members safe when they carry out their functions as elected councillors. Such steps should include provision of information and support as appropriate to enable Members to keep safe in their role as councillors. This report sets out the steps the Council has taken to discharge this duty.

### **6. BACKGROUND**

6.1 Following the tragic death of Jo Cox MP all members were circulated updated personal safety guidance issued by LGIU.

6.2 Officers in Member Services contacted their peers in other authorities to check whether any best or new practise was in place. No new or better practice was found. All members were contacted in early September 2016 to state this, but also to ask them to raise any specific individual concerns so these could be addressed. The feedback to this was limited, with the main concerns being around the venues and lone working.

6.3 Individual support has been given to members to address any specific concerns or threats to safety and this has been supported by Hackney police. This approach will continue.

6.4 To understand and help a programme to address any concerns about venue safety for members' surgeries, a programme of risk assessments will commence in early 2017. These will start with the venues where lone working takes place first.

6.5 If issues are identified from the risk assessments, the Members Services team will work with the members concerned to put in place as many measures as possible to negate these (e.g. pay for ad hoc security). If needs be alternative

venues will be sought. Surgeries however are run at venues with zero cost to the Council, so any new venues would need not to incur cost. There will also be a challenge to keep surgeries within the ward wherever possible to ensure they are local to the residents members represent.

- 6.6 A training session for all members was run by the Police on 17 January 2017 around safety at surgeries and terrorism threats with particular regard to those in public office. It also afforded all members the opportunity to seek advice and ask questions from the police expert in this area in the borough.
- 6.7 Further resources on member safety are available from the LGA (including Health & Safety and Resolution & Conflict Management) and LGIU training (Personal Safety for Councillors) resources for members, which are delivered through a mixture of distance learning and training courses. All members have been made aware of the LGA/LGIU resource as part of a refresh of the member training offer.
- 6.8 Personal attack alarms have been purchased and offered to all members.
- 6.9 Officers will continue to work to address any concerns that members bring to them around safety.

<b>Report Author</b>	Bruce Devile, Head of Governance & Business Intelligence <a href="mailto:bruce.devile@hackney.gov.uk">bruce.devile@hackney.gov.uk</a> 020 8356 3418
<b>Comments of the Corporate Director of Finance and Corporate Resources</b>	Jackie Moylan, Director of Finance <a href="mailto:jackie.moylan@hackney.gov.uk">jackie.moylan@hackney.gov.uk</a> 020 8356 3032
<b>Comments of the Director of Legal Services</b>	Yinka Owa, Director of Legal <a href="mailto:yinka.owa@hackney.gov.uk">yinka.owa@hackney.gov.uk</a> 020 8356 6234