

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024

Present: Councillors David Boothroyd (Chairman), Aicha Less, Ellie Ormsby and Mark Shearer

1. Policy on Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks for Councillors

- 1.1 The Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Engagement (Adult Social Care and Health) and the Head of Safeguarding Review and Quality Assurance (Children's Services), introduced the report and confirmed that the Council currently did not have a policy on Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for Councillors.
- 1.2 It was noted that in January 2024 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities wrote to all Unitary and Upper Tier Authorities, reminding them of the recommendation in Simon Bailey's Independent Review of the Disclosure and Barring Regime. Therefore, following this letter the policy before the Committee had been drafted and included requirements for Enhanced DBS checks for those Councillors involved in decisions about the provision of children's services or the provision of services for vulnerable adults, and for Basic DBS checks for any Councillor elected to the Council.
- 1.3 In response to questions from the Committee it was explained that it would be good practice for all Councillors to have a DBS check, it was not only expected that this would eventually become legislation but would also mirror what many other local authorities were undertaking. With regards to Members on Scrutiny Committees, it was clarified that DBS checks would be important as the Members would be in a position of trust and could be party to sensitive information.
- 1.4 Members noted the draft procedures for dealing with a positive disclosure including the steps which would be taken. The Committee endorsed the policy and agreed that the policy be reviewed on a regular basis going forward.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Full Council adopt the Policy on Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for Councillors and that the implementation of the checks are reviewed in Autumn 2025.

David Boothroyd, Chair

Appendix 1: General Purposes Committee Report – DBS Checks for Councillors (05.06.2024)
Appendix 2: Policy on Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for Councillors