

SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH SCOPING DOCUMENT

Title	Harassment Abuse and Intimidation Task & Finish Group
Reasons for undertaking Task and Finish Group	<p>To consider how harassment, abuse and intimidation of Councillors can be addressed and promote Councillor safety at a local level.</p>
Key Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are members concerns in relation to harassment, abuse and intimidation in the course of their work as an elected member? • How can risks be mitigated and members supported in the event of severe intimidation and threats? • Why there is a change in culture and what are the underlying issues that create this behaviour?
Intended Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a local protocol setting out procedures, should a councillor feel they are being publicly harassed, intimidated or abused. • To establish regular briefings for all councillors, including those who have been newly elected, to share experiences and concerns can both help identify persistent offenders and look at council-led solutions. • To identify what steps should be taken by the Council to mitigate the risk to Councillors in the event of severe intimidation and threats.
Background Information	<p>Local Authorities and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have undertaken work in relation to increasing levels of intimidation, harassment and abuse elected members are experiencing whilst carrying out their role in public office.</p> <p>During October/November 2022, Democratic Services Committee members were updated on the areas of work being undertaken in relation to Councillor Safety and Wellbeing by various organisations. A Local Government Association (LGA) guidance document in relation to How Councillor’s Handle Harassment, Abuse and Intimidation provided practical advice to enhance Councillors personal security and to minimise the risk of physical abuse in various settings including surgeries, home visits and whilst travelling to and from council meetings.</p>

	Following the publication of the guidance, the Democratic Services Committee noted steps that this Council are considering.
Member Involvement	<p>Cllr. Wayne Carpenter Cllr. Nathan Goldup-John Cllr. Jo Hale Cllr. Mike Harvey Cllr. James Henton Cllr. Alan Lockyer Cllr. Andy Lodwig Cllr. Saifur Rahaman Cllr. Peter Rees Cllr. Sonia Reynolds Cllr. Phil Rogers Cllr. Chris Williams</p> <p>To open member involvement to other non-executive members, if requested by committee members??.</p>
Officer Support	<p>Head of Legal and Democratic Services Democratic Services Manager Democratic Service Scrutiny Officer</p>
List of potential key officers, stakeholders, partners or other agencies to involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Police • WLGA • LGA
Timeframe/ plan for meetings	1/2 meetings ??