



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

19th MARCH 2019

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

LONE WORKING POLICY FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is for Members to consider the creation of a lone working policy for the use of Elected Members.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Democratic Services Committee:

- (i) Consider and agree to the development of a lone working policy for the use of elected Members.
- (ii) Subject to 2.1(i) that the Interim Head of Democratic Services and the Director of Human Resources bring forward a policy for Members consideration at a future Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 One of the primary roles of a Councillor is to remain accessible to their local communities and constituents. While circumstances may vary, individual Councillors have to decide whether assisting constituents will involve them in lone working situations such as home visits or Member Surgeries.

3.2 The Council has in place a Lone Working policy for the benefits of its employees, although this is not specific to Elected Members.

4 LONE WORKING POLICY

4.1 Following a number of requests from Members in respect of Lone Working it is proposed that a policy is developed which will aim to provide councillors with a concise, easy to access set of guidelines about how to assess and manage risk when in lone working situations. These guidelines will also outline the proactive safety measures that can be taken should councillors find themselves in situations where they have concerns for their safety.

- 4.2 Many Councillors will not experience any problems during their term(s) of office, however Local authorities have responsibilities for the safety of Elected Members while on council business as they do for their officers.
- 4.3 If taken forward the Policy would be beneficial for all Members, especially any new Elected Member and could be included within the Members Induction pack.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 One of the primary aims of a Councillor Lone Working Policy is to ensure Councillors accessibility to their constituents and communities, therefore ensuring equality of provision to all residents of RCT.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation with Human Resources

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 None.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 The work of all Councillors is fundamental to the work of the Council and subsequently the delivery of the Corporate Plan, hence ensuring Members are fully supported in undertaking their roles is important to the work of the Council overall.
- 9.2 Ensuring all Members are supported and have equal access to support and development links to the future generations well being goals of a more equal Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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BACKGROUND PAPERS – Lone Working Policy

None