



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
20 MARCH 2018**

Report of: Borough Solicitor

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SUBJECT: INTIMIDATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

Wards affected: Borough wide.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To note the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life entitled "Intimidation in Public Life" (attached as an Appendix).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the report be noted.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The Committee on Standards in Public Life published its report in December 2017 in response to the increasing prevalence of intimidation in public life. The report presents evidence showing the extent and seriousness of the problem and has found intimidation taking place across the political spectrum, both in terms of those engaging in intimidation and those receiving it.

3.2 The Committee on Standards in Public Life are committed to considering further the issue of intimidation of local councillors as part of their forthcoming review of local government standards.

3.3 One recommendation arising from the report is the requirement for Monitoring Officers to bring the availability of sensitive interests in the Localism Act 2011 to the attention of councillors. Suitable notifications are issued to Councillors to highlight the provisions in relation to sensitive interests and these are reflected in the Council's Members' Code of Conduct. Processes and training also serve to make councillors aware of the facility provided. An example of the process is the "interests sheet" which forms part of every agenda for a council meeting includes reference to the provision on sensitive interests.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 This item does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

Appendix – Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life “Intimidation in Public Life”