# **Audit and Governance Committee**



Date of meeting: 16 January 2023

Title of Report: Disclosure and Barring Service Checks for

**Councillors** 

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for

Finance and Economy)

Lead Strategic Director: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)

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Your Reference: AG/DBS/2023

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

### **Purpose of Report**

The attached policy (Appendix A) follows discussion of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks which took place at the meeting of October 2021 and July 2022.

In addition to the discussions held at the Audit and Governance Committee an all councillor briefing was delivered on the 16 November 2023. The briefing provided information on the levels of DBS checks and the specific criteria for eligibility. The recording of that session <u>remains available for councillors at this link.</u>

The policy meets the statutory requirements for DBS checks and provides that some, but not all, councillors receive a DBS check.

#### **Recommendations and Reasons**

The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to approve the policy.

Reason: The policy provides clarity as to which councillor roles have DBS checks as a requirement.

### Alternative options considered and rejected

- Not creating a policy: The Council is not under a statutory obligation to agree a policy in relation to DBS checks for councillors. This option was rejected as clarity of what checks are required has been requested by Councillors.
- Requiring DBS checks for all Councillors: There is no requirement in the law to provide DBS checks for all councillors and the Council is unable to compel all Councillors to undergo such checks.

### Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The policy reflects the Democratic and Responsible values of the Corporate Plan and our priority to keep children, young people and adults protected.

### Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None - Costs in relation to checks will be met through existing budgets.

#### **Financial Risks**

None - Costs in relation to checks will be met through existing budgets.

### **Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

None.

### Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

None.

### **Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b> (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
		I	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Α	Policy Concerning Disclosure And Barring Service Checks For Councillors								

### **Background papers:**

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)  If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why i is not for publication by virtue of Part Tof Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
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<sup>\*</sup>Add rows as required to box below

## Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: | | /0 | /2023