

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)
Author:	Ross Jago
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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 [remains available for councillors at this link](#).

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.

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: 11/01/2023