
To: Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1)

Date: 10th September 2025

Subject: Proposals for a Task and Finish Group

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 Members of Finance and Corporate Scrutiny Board have been requested to identify a topic area to be pursued as a task and finish group (T&F) for the municipal year 2025/26. It is proposed that the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) support the Ethics Committee in their work to tackle and mitigate the impact of abuse and intimidation that Councillors may encounter by considering a task and finish group on Ending Abuse in Public Life

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- a) Consider the Briefing Note and agree in principle to establish a task and finish group to look at the support offered to Members to tackle and mitigate the impact and risk of abuse and intimidation.

3 Information and Background

- 3.1 The Ethics Committee has been monitoring the work of the Local Government Association (LGA) programme around Civility in Public Life and Digital Citizenship. This work is in response to the increasing concern about intimidation and toxicity of debate and the impact this has been having on democratic processes. Reports were previously considered by the Ethics Committee on 30 March 2023 and 28 September 2023.
- 3.2 At their meeting on 25th September 2025 Ethics Committee will receive a report recommending that they request the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) to establish a task and finish group to provide a Member-led approach to developing the Council's approach to abuse and intimidation.
- 3.3 In May 2024, the LGA designed a self-assessment tool kit designed to aid local Councils in tackling and mitigating the impact and risks of abuse and intimidation that Councillors may encounter as part of their role, supporting them to be safe. The initial self-assessment was considered by Ethics Committee at their meeting on 26th September 2024, with a further update on 9th January 2025. [Agenda item -](#)

[Ending Abuse in Public Life Council Self-Assessment Toolkit - Outcome of Evidence Gathering Exercise - Coventry City Council](#)

- 3.4 To further this work, it is proposed a scrutiny T&F Group provide a member-led approach to delivering the actions and outcomes identified in the self-assessment and to identify further recommendations to support the Council's approach in supporting all Members of the Council against abuse and intimidation.
- 3.5 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfGS) provides guidance for T&F Groups which can be found at this link: [Running Effective Reviews - A Practice Guide - CFGS](#)

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 Any Task and Finish Group topic is assessed for its impact on equalities at the scoping stage as are any future recommendations. Members who have protected characteristics such as women, those from black and minority ethnic communities, are disabled, or are LGBTQ+ are more likely to experience abuse and intimidation.

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