

MEETING	Democracy Services Committee
DATE	3 November 2026
TITLE	Councillor Safety
PURPOSE	Provide an update on the work being done in terms of the Safety of Members
RECOMMENDATION	To note and accept the report.
AUTHOR	Vera Jones Democracy and Language Service Manager

1. The safety of Members has been and continues to be a priority for the Democracy Service. Unfortunately, it remains to be a subject that needs constant attention. We are aware that many Councillors face threats in their communities and we are available to offer advice and support to individual members when safety or well-being matters arise.
2. The Head of Democracy Services reported in the Annual Report in 2024/25 that there was a need to raise the awareness of Councillors of the need to report any incident or threat, by completing and returning the relevant forms (HS11).
3. The report notes the work done by the Council over the past few months to ensure that the safety of members receives ongoing attention.
4. Jo Cox Remembrance Event
 - 4.1 On 19 June, following a Notice of Motion at the Full Council, an event was held for Councillors to remember Jo Cox. It was part of the national 'Great Get Together' event. Councillors came together under the banner of what mattered to Jo Cox, i.e., to celebrate what connects us, showing that we have more in common than the issues that divide us.
 - 4.2 There was an opportunity to have open discussions and receive information regarding:
 - the threats and challenges facing Members in their communities,
 - good practice when considering the safety of Members in the community and in meetings
 - guidance for Members on how to hold events safely
 - raising awareness of the support available from the Council.
 - 4.3 Attention was drawn to the support that we have available here in the Council, particularly the pages on the members' intranet regarding the safety of Members and regarding the well-being of Members. In addition, there was an opportunity to remind Members of the specific support available for Elected Members from a designated officer at North Wales Police through "Operation Ford". It is important that any member contacting the police for support if something is happening/has happened to them states that the incident is relevant to "Operation Ford".

- 4.4 It was a valuable morning of sharing experiences, and it highlighted that Councillors from all parties and backgrounds often faced the same issues. A request was noted by the Members in attendance for the Council to hold such sessions more regularly to give Councillors an opportunity to share experiences, identify potential solutions and good practice that have worked for others and have the support of their fellow councillors.

5. Incident Reporting Training for Councillors

- 5.1 As previously reported, we are aware that Councillors are facing incidents and/or threats as a result of their role as Councillors. Having said that, the factual evidence that we have on the number of incidents is very low. It has been a requirement for years that Members report on incidents, violent and dangerous incidents or such threats by completing a specific form (HS11), but the number who have completed this form is very low.
- 5.2 As part of the work of raising Members' awareness of the need to report any incident or threat, a virtual training session was held by the Health and Safety Team. The training was in addition to the 'Leading safely' core training.
- 5.3 The Council has modernised and simplified the incident reporting procedure and created digital forms to report incidents, risks and violent and dangerous incidents. The session provided the necessary skills and information to ensure that every individual is able to use the system confidently and correctly. There is an intention to hold these sessions for councillors in the future.
- 5.5 With the Local Government election on the horizon, it seems likely that many Elected Members will be preparing to go out and campaign over the coming months. We encourage all our members to be familiar with the information regarding safety, which is found on the website, as part of their work to prepare for the election. In addition, if any Councillor faces any of these situations, they are encouraged to report the incident on the system or contact us as a Council, should you require support. Nobody should face this alone.

6. **DECISION SOUGHT**

The Democracy Services Committee is asked to note and accept the report