

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Democratic Services Committee – 29 April, 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Head of Democratic Services

**SUBJECT:** Personal safety guidance

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**REPORT FOR:** Discussion and Decision

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 Members constantly interact with the public, where the public may raise problems or concerns and they may become upset or angry. Members need to know how to manage such situations safely. Situations may occur where an individual becomes violent. Even though violence towards public figures are rare, councillors have high profile public roles and may become the victims of verbal or written abuse or may experience harassment and stalking and online abuse. It is therefore important that Members are aware of how to manage such situations.
- 1.2 The following Councils refer to WLGA webpage: <https://www.wlga.wales/personal-safety-for-members> - Swansea, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Conwy and Newport. Cardiff and Wrexham Councils have developed their own guidance and referred to the WLGA webpage.

## 2. Draft Personal safety guidance

- 2.1 The Member Development Working Group considered and agreed the attached draft guidance, which is based on the Wrexham County Borough Council's guidance. Following the Working Groups approval, the draft was considered by the Health & Safety Adviser and tracked changes are shown.
- 2.2 Following approval a Member development session on personal safety will be provided for Members.

<b>Recommendation to the County Council:</b>	<b>Reason for recommendation</b>
<b>The Personal Safety Guidance for Councillors be approved and that a Member development session on personal safety be provided for Members.</b>	<b>To support Members in their role.</b>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y / N</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y / N</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	
<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Wyn Richards</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	

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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**