

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**DRAFT PROTOCOL WITH HUMBERSIDE POLICE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider a draft protocol for assessing and reporting incidents of abuse, intimidation, and harassment to Humberside Police's Single Point of Contact.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Throughout much of 2022/23, the Standards Committee has worked on ensuring robust arrangements were in place to support members and to ensure that serious incidents of abuse, intimidation and harassment are logged and reported accordingly.
- 2.2 The Standards Committee met with Humberside Police's Lead Senior Officer and Single Point of Contact (SPOC) on 15 March 2023 (minute 452 refers) to discuss the legislation surrounding malicious communications, rights to Freedom of Expression, and steps that members can take to protect themselves.
- 2.3 A short protocol between North Lincolnshire Council and Humberside Police would facilitate the reporting of serious incidents. A draft protocol is attached as Appendix 1, which includes a concise form for members or officers working closely with elected councillors, to complete and send through to the SPOC for assessment and potential further action.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Humberside Police are currently considering the draft protocol.
- 3.2 The adoption of a protocol would ensure that there was a formal route for serious incidents to be reported to the SPOC. Group staff would receive necessary guidance.

3.3 The Standards Committee may decide to amend or not to approve the draft protocol.

**4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 It is considered beneficial to adopt a formal route to report serious incidents of abuse or intimidation.

4.2 Not adopting a protocol could result in inconsistent handling of incidents, or incidents being missed entirely.

**5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 There are no resource or financial implications. Staff will receive the necessary training and support, and the Monitoring Officer is available to provide guidance if required.

**6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 The adoption of a formal protocol would ensure that any incidents or reports could be passed to Humberside Police for consideration. proven effective.

6.2 Councillors with protected characteristics are particularly vulnerable to abuse. Ensuring robust local arrangements would therefore be in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, and would reduce the risk of harm to councillors.

6.3 There are no environmental or other governance issues related to this report.

**7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 The completion of an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

**8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Humberside police are currently being consulted on the draft protocol. A further report can be submitted to the Standards Committee's next meeting.

8.2 There are no conflicts of interest identified.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Standards Committee consider the draft protocol and reporting form, at Appendix 1.
- 9.2 That a further report be submitted to the Standards Committee's next meeting.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE & COMMUNITIES

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –**

Published Standards Arrangements  
LGA Debate, Not Hate documentation