



**Full Council**

**Tuesday, 27  
September 2022**

**Matter for  
Information and  
Decision**

**Report Title: Domestic Abuse Policies (September 2022)**

**Report Author(s): Chris Eyre (Housing Manager)  
Suzanne Boultyby (Interim HR Manager)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To seek the Full Council approval to implement two new corporate Domestic Abuse Policies.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	This report gives a summary of the policy that the Council is seeking approval to implement.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>1. The content of the report and appendices be noted; and 2. The new policies (at Appendix 1 and 3) are approved</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	<p>Tracy Bingham (Strategic Director / Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2845 <a href="mailto:tracy.bingham@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">tracy.bingham@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Adrian Thorpe (Head of Build Environment) (0116) 257 2645 <a href="mailto:adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Chris Eyre (Housing Manager) (0116) 257 2726 <a href="mailto:chris.eyre@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">chris.eyre@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Sunny Basran (Strategy and Performance Officer) (0116) 257 2853 <a href="mailto:sunny.basran@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">sunny.basran@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Suzanne Boultyby (Interim HR Manager) (0116) 257 2835 <a href="mailto:suzanne.boultyby@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">suzanne.boultyby@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Corporate Objectives:</b>	Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	No corporate risk(s) identified.
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. Initial EA Screening (See Appendices).
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.

Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Leadership Team</li> <li>• List of Consultees (Section 1.1.2)</li> </ul>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None.
<b>Appendices:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft Corporate Domestic Abuse Policy (September 2022)</li> <li>2. Domestic Abuse Policy - Equality Assessment Form</li> <li>3. Draft Staff Domestic Abuse Policy (September 2022)</li> </ol>

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The new Domestic Abuse Policy (**Appendix 1**) sets out the approach of the Council when identifying and dealing with incidents of domestic abuse. The policy applies to all tenants, leaseholders and residents of the borough as well as any victims of domestic abuse who are seeking assistance from the Council. The specific objective of the policy is to ensure that we provide a consistent and supportive service to anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse.

1.1.1 The new policy also helps the Council to meet the requirements to obtain the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation in March 2023.

1.1.2 A consultation exercise has been completed between 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, this involved the following:

1	Communication team placing the consultation onto our website and referencing this on the news area of the website
2	Communication team pushing out the consultation onto social media
3	Communication team informing members of the consultation via the members bulletin
4	Communication team informing all staff of the consultation via the weekly newsletter
5	Housing Service placing a notice on the consultation within the Community Centre located on Boulter Crescent
6	Housing Service placing a notice on the consultation within our Sheltered Schemes (William Peardon Court, Marriott House, Chartwell House)
7	<p>Housing Service communicating the consultation exercise with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Leadership Team</li> <li>• Housing Teams</li> <li>• Local MP</li> <li>• Helping Hands</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse Services – Women's Aid Leicester, Free from Violence and Abuse (FreeVA), First Step, Zinthyia Trust, New Dawn New Day,</li> </ul>

1.1.3 A total of three persons participated in the consultation exercise anonymously. All of whom agreed with our approach to; responding to reports of domestic abuse, supporting victims & survivors and taking action against perpetrators.

1.1.4 We received only one comment which was an observation in relation to the types of accommodation offered to victims of domestic abuse temporarily;

*'Survivors of DV must be encouraged to go into refuge and not Bed and Breakfast of Hostel as there is not the safety or trained staff available to them they also should not if a survivor within the borough be rehoused in the area as they can easily be located by the perpetrator and this should highlighted within the policy'*

1.1.5 This report also seeks Members approval to implement the corporate Domestic Abuse Policy and Staff Domestic Abuse Policy (**Appendix 3**).