

Report to: Audit & Governance Committee Meeting - 21
February 2024

Director or Business Manager Lead: Sue Bearman, Assistant Director Legal & Democratic
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Report Summary	
Report Title	Whistleblowing Policy Annual Report
Purpose of Report	An annual report to update the Committee on the implementation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.
Recommendations	That the report be noted, and that the Committee includes an annual review of the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy in the Committee's work plan, and that an awareness raising exercise be undertaken during the next year.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure oversight arrangements are in place going forward.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Whistleblowing Policy was last updated in 2023 following review by the Audit & Governance Committee.
- 1.2 Following Committee's review, the Joint Consultative Committee (the Council has established the Joint Consultative Committee to provide a regular method of consultation and where appropriate negotiation between the Council and its employees) considered and approved the updated version, and the Monitoring Officer worked with Corporate Communications to promote the existence of the Policy through the Council's staff newsletter and posters.
- 1.3 The updated Policy was also shared with the Council's wholly owned companies, Active 4 Today Limited and Arkwood Developments Limited, as a template.
- 1.4 No whistleblowing concerns have been recorded by the Monitoring Officer in the past year.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Committee again includes an annual review of the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy in the Committee's work plan. No updates or amendments are considered necessary this year.
- 2.2 It is proposed that a further awareness raising exercise is undertaken prior to the next annual review.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- The Council's Whistleblowing Policy is published for staff on the Council's Intranet and is available as a background paper.
- Audit & Governance Committee report of 1 February 2023, with Whistleblowing Policy attached as an Appendix, is published - <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=298&MId=817>