



Report to: Audit & Governance Committee: 19 February 2025  
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Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Whistleblowing Policy Annual Report
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	An annual report to update the Committee on the implementation of the Council’s Whistleblowing Policy.
<b>Recommendations</b>	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.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	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. No updates were considered necessary in 2024.
- 1.2 In 2024 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 Policy has been 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/Options Considered

- 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 & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

#### 3.2 Legal Implications (LEG2425/1092)

Audit & Governance Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report by virtue of its function in relation to assurance of the Council's governance arrangements.

### **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 21 February 2024 is published - <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/documents/s19160/Item%2017%2021.02.2024%20Whistleblowing%20Policy%20Annual%20Report.pdf>