

Report to: Cabinet Meeting - 1 April 2025

Portfolio Holder(s): Councillor Paul Taylor - Public Protection & Community Relations

Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director - Communities and Environment

Lead Officer: Jenny Walker, Business Manager – Public Protection, Ext. 5210

<b>Report Summary</b>	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Open Report / Key Decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Domestic Abuse Policy
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek approval for the draft Domestic Abuse Policy to be subject to a 4-week public consultation period prior to approval.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Cabinet approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a 4-week public consultation for the draft Domestic Abuse Policy; and</li> <li>b) delegated authority be given to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection &amp; Community Relations in consultation with the Director - Communities &amp; Environment to approve any amendments resulting from the consultation.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	A Domestic Abuse Policy is required to be in place in order to ensure compliance with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation, there are no alternative options.
<b>Reason for Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation.</li> <li>• To continue to seek improvements for those facing Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• The recommendations link directly to the Community Plan Objectives of Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.</li> </ul>

## **1.0 Background**

1.1 Every local authority in Nottinghamshire has committed with Nottinghamshire County Council to seek accreditation through the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. This is being supported and funded by Nottinghamshire County Council and provides a dedicated project officer to assist councils in reviewing their policies and procedures to ensure that, as an authority, they are supportive of persons impacted by Domestic Abuse and to ensure that the services they provide to both the public and employees put those impacted and the centre to support their needs.

- 1.2 We have a dedicated project officer working with the Council from Nottinghamshire Women's Aid, who has already assisted Mansfield District Council to become accredited and Bassetlaw District Council, who are nearing completion.
- 1.3 The work required to ensure compliance with the accreditation will reach every aspect of the council services. A full review of key policies and procedures will take place to ensure that, where required, consideration is given to supporting people who have or are impacted by domestic abuse.
- 1.4 All staff and elected members will undertake domestic abuse awareness training and for certain teams that may be more directly involved more detailed training will be provided to ensure that suitable support and signposting to appropriate agencies is undertaken.
- 1.5 In order to seek accreditation, the council will be required to submit evidence of their commitment and processes in supporting those impacted by domestic abuse and key employees will be interviewed as part of the process to ensure that the necessary processes and policies are fully embedded across the organisation.

## **2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered**

- 2.1 There are a number of key policies and procedures that require updating and embedding, one of the main policies that relates to our customers is the Domestic Abuse Policy. This draft policy is provided in **Appendix 1** and sets out what people can expect when contacting the council and how we will support those impacted by domestic abuse.
- 2.2 It is proposed that this policy is approved to have a 4 week public consultation period. The policy will be directly shared with our Tenants Engagement Panel, our Engaged Tenants and key stakeholders. This will include Nottinghamshire Women's Aid the commissioned provider for women, children and young people and Equation the commissioned provider for male victims, perpetrator programmes and multi-agency training. The policy will also be available on our website for any public consultation comments and views.
- 2.3 It is recommended that where the consultation responses suggest that necessary amendments are made that these are reviewed and updated as required in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Community Relations and the Director of Communities and Environment for final approval before publishing onto our website and embedding.

## **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.

### **3.1 Financial Implications FIN24-25/3147**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### 3.2 Legal Implications LEG2425/5305

To be accredited by the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance, the Council must follow eight priority areas, one of which is to have policies which underpin responses that prioritise the safety of the victim, survivors and perpetrators being held accountable for their behaviour and actions. The consultees suggested, ensures that there is inclusive consultation regardless of gender.

### 3.3 Human Resources Implications HR2425/7802 FK

Initial planning regarding the staff awareness is underway and the Council intends to work with our Learning Management System provider to create the appropriate content and to ensure that it is available to staff. This will be rolled out with consideration to other training requirements to ensure that staff are able to complete it effectively.

Internal communications will be carried out in a sensitive manner with consideration to the impact that this subject may have on individuals and any additional support that may be required.

If HR policies are impacted as part of the review, any changes will be subject to relevant approvals including at the JCC.

### **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.

None