



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND RESOURCES**

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**to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
9 NOVEMBER 2023**

**WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To review the Council's Whistleblowing Policy (the Policy).

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the draft Whistleblowing Policy attached at **APPENDIX 1** to this report be agreed.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Whistleblowing Policy should be reviewed every three years or if legislation changes significantly to ensure this meets the requirements of the Council.
- 3.2 The Policy in place, although working adequately, had last been reviewed more than three years ago. Therefore, an exercise was undertaken to review this.
- 3.3 This Policy works alongside the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy, Anti Money Laundering Policy and Bribery Act Policy.
- 3.4 This review was completed by the Assistant Directors – Resources and was reviewed by the Section 151 Officer and Director of Strategy and Resources, with advice from auditors and details of policies from other similar Councils. This ensured that the policy was up to date and covered all the key areas of how to report any suspected risk.
- 3.5 Following Council approval, this policy will be adopted, provided to staff and Members and set for review in 2026 or earlier if legislation changes significantly.

**4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 To ensure that the Whistleblowing Policy is appropriately reviewed and approved for use the Committee is asked to approve the attached Policy (**APPENDIX 1**) to be but in place until the next three year review or earlier if legislation changes.

## **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027**

5.1 The adoption of up to date fraud policies protects the Council, staff and residents and meets with the Corporate Plan priorities as below.

### **5.2 Smarter finances**

5.2.1 Ensuring that the public purse is protected from Fraud.

### **5.3 Provide good quality services.**

5.3.1 Ensuring that the systems and processes are in place to prevent and combat fraud to enable the effective delivery of services.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Safeguarding Council finances, identifying and dealing with any fraudulent activities.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Reducing risk of fraud.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Required to monitor and address any issues with fraud as required by the policies.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Required to support if any fraudulent issues identified.

Background Papers: None.

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