

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Standards Committee**

**28th February 2024**

**Annual Review of Whistleblowing Policy**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.

**Contact Officer:** Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.

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**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

The Whistleblowing Policy should be reviewed annually and the number of confidential disclosures reported to Standards Committee. This was last done on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

A light touch review has been undertaken and is being reported to Members.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To approve the amended policy for including on the Council's website.
2. To note that no disclosures have been made under the policy in 2023.

**IMPLICATIONS**

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**Finance and Risk:** Yes  No

**Details:**

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):** Yes  No

**Details:**

As in the report.

The Council is obliged to have arrangements in place.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:** Yes  No

**Details:**

None

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £100,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £250,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None directly
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cabinet</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SMT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details:

### **Links to Council Plan (NED) priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.**

Continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money.

## REPORT DETAILS

### **1 Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 Whistleblowing is a report from an employee, member or other person about suspected wrongdoing within the organisation. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 requires employers to refrain from dismissing workers

and employees or subjecting them to any other detriment because they have made a protected disclosure.

- 1.2 Whistleblowing policies should foster a climate of openness and transparency in which individuals in the workplace do not feel that they will be victimised, harassed or suffer any reprisals if they raise concerns about wrongdoing within the organisation. The Government expects all public bodies to have adequate whistleblowing procedures in place.
- 1.3 The Whistleblowing Policy was last reviewed in December 2022 when no substantive changes were recommended other than housekeeping amendments.
- 1.4 In accordance with the Whistleblowing Policy, the Monitoring Officer has overall responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the Policy, and will maintain a record of concerns raised and the outcomes. The Monitoring Officer is also required to report as necessary to Council on instances of Whistleblowing. There have been no instances to report for the 2023 calendar year.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The Whistleblowing Policy has been reviewed to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and it is concluded that the existing version is satisfactory and up to date with current legislation and best practice. Some housekeeping changes have been made and a copy of the amended Policy is attached.
- 2.2 There are no instances of Whistleblowing to report to Members.
- 2.4 The policy, once approved, will be put on the Council's website and kept in HR.

## **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Whistleblowing Policy is up to date and regularly reviewed and considered by Members.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 There are no alternative options as the Policy needs regular review.

### **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Draft Whistleblowing Policy

**Background Papers** (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)

**None**