

**Bolsover District Council**

**Standards Committee**

**22 February 2021**

<p><b>Joint Whistleblowing Policy – Annual Report</b></p>
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**Report of the Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer**

This report is open

**Purpose of the Report**

- To provide an annual update to Members on use of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy.

**1 Report Details**

- 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 North East Derbyshire District Council and Bolsover District Council currently have in place a Joint Whistleblowing Policy. The Councils are committed to updating Policies on a regular basis to ensure that they are fit for purpose, and the last review took place in February 2020.
- 1.4 The Joint Whistleblowing Policy has been reviewed in February 2021 and no changes are recommended other than housekeeping amendments (shown in tracked changes on Appendix 1).
- 1.5 In accordance with the Joint 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 both Councils on instances of Whistleblowing. There have been no instances to report for the 20/21 Municipal Year.

**2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Joint 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.

2.2 There are no instances of Whistleblowing to report to Members.

### **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

3.1 There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

3.2 Standards Committee have the responsibility to oversee the Joint Whistleblowing Policy and arrangements and are required to make recommendations to Council to amend the Policy as appropriate.

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

4.1 None.

### **5 Implications**

#### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

None.

#### **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

The legal implications in relation to whistleblowing are contained within the policy.

#### **5.3 Human Resources Implications**

None.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 That Standards Committee:

- a) agree the current Joint Whistleblowing Policy is fit for purpose; and
- b) note that no instances of Whistleblowing have been made since the 2020 Annual Review of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy.

## 7 Decision Information

<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: <i>BDC:      Revenue - £75,000    <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>Capital - £150,000    <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/></i> <i>Capital - £250,000    <input type="checkbox"/></i> <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>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</b>	Yes
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	All

## 11 Document Information

Appendix No	Title	
1	Whistleblowing Policy	
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