

Bolsover District Council

Council

Wednesday 14th April 2021

Joint Whistleblowing Policy – Annual Report

Report of the Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public
Report By: Governance Manager, Nicola Calver
Contact Officer: Nicola Calver - 01246 217753

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

- 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.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Corporate Governance

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

None.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The Joint Whistleblowing Policy is drafted in accordance with the Employment Rights Act 1996 as amended by the Public Disclosure Act 1998 in relation to Part IVA.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

None.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Standards Committee

Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

All

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

- 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. Details of Proposal or Information

- 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 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 That Council:
 - c) agree the current Joint Whistleblowing Policy is fit for purpose; and
 - d) note that no instances of Whistleblowing have been made since the 2020 Annal Review of the Joint Whistleblowing Policy.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	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 (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
N/A	