

Bolsover District Council

Standards Committee on 29th January 2024

Whistleblowing Policy – Annual Report

Report of the Service Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

Classification	This report is public
Report By	Jim Fieldsend Service Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To provide an annual update to Members on use of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

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 The Council is committed to updating policies on a regular basis to ensure that they are fit for purpose. The last review of the Whistleblowing Policy took place in January 2023.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The Whistleblowing Policy has been reviewed in the preparation of writing this report and no changes are recommended.

2.2 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 the Council on instances of Whistleblowing. There have been no instances to report for the 2023 calendar year.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 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.

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

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1. That the Committee agree the current Whistleblowing Policy is fit for purpose.
- 2. That the Committee note that no instances of Whistleblowing have been made during 2023.

<u>IMPLICATIONS:</u>	
<u>Finance and Risk:</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details: There are no financial implications arising from this report.	
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer	
<u>Legal (including Data Protection):</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details: The legal implications in relation to whistleblowing are contained within the policy and no further implications arise from this report.	
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council	
<u>Environment:</u>	
Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.	
Details: None	
<u>Staffing:</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details: There are no staffing implications arising from this report.	

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	N/A

District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

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 Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).

None