

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee

30 March 2021

WHISTLEBLOWERS POLICY UPDATE

Report of Corporate Director, Resources (s151 Officer)

All Wards
Key Decision = N

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report presents a proposed update to the Whistle-blowers Policy for Members' consideration.

2.0 Decisions Sought.

2.1 The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is asked to approve the updated Whistle-blowers Policy.

3.0 Link to Corporate Priorities

3.1 This reports links to the council priority of being a 'Fit for Purpose' council.

4.0 Background

4.1 The Whistle-blowers policy has been in existence for a number of years and was last updated in 2017.

4.2 The Council has used the policy on several occasions since that time and legislation and good practice have also developed. The policy previously was part of the Counter fraud strategy and this has caused some confusion and concern amongst members of staff.

4.3 As a result, it was felt appropriate to update the policy and make it as a standalone document for staff and customers to use. A draft of the updated policy is attached at **Appendix 1** for Members to consider. This has been drafted with input from Veritau and considering recent usage and Richmondshire knowledge.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 Members approve the updated counter fraud and corruption strategy action plan

6.0 Corporate Implications

Scrutiny Consultation	Not applicable
Community Engagement	None
Environment & Sustainability	Not applicable

Financial Implications	Failure to prevent and detect fraudulent activity will lead to additional cost to the council, and the possibility that the final accounts are not approved by the council's external auditors.
Legal Implications	There are no legal implications associated with report but the council has a duty to protect the public purse.
Risk Implications	There are no major risks associated with this report.
Human Resource Implications	None
Equalities Implications	None
Health & Safety Implications	None

7.0 Further Information

7.1 Background Papers – None

7.2 File References – None

7.3 Appendices - **Appendix 1** – Draft Whistle-blowers policy

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