

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	20 March 2023
Title of Report:	Updated Whistleblowing Policy
Lead Member:	Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Governance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Emma Jackman
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to the amendments to the policy. Proposed changes are for clarity and do not change any fundamentals of the policy.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Committee note and approve the changes in the appended Whistleblowing Policy.

Reasons:

To ensure that the policy reflects best practice and is clear as to its application. Given the policy is based on specific statutory legislative protection for employees there needed to be clarification as to the extent to which aspects of it applied solely to employees as opposed to other persons.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None. The Authority needs to maintain and promote the Whistleblowing Policy to comply with best practice and to ensure a high level of awareness of, and confidence in, the Council's whistleblowing arrangements

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Whistleblowing Policy supports the Council's values through the promotion of good governance and can play an important role in deterring and detecting malpractice, maintaining public trust and, delivering the Council's ambitions to being democratic, responsible and fair.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None.

Financial Risks

None.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

None.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing Report							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Audit Governance Report – Whistleblowing Policy (item 30)							
EIA as appended to the Audit Governance Report – Whistleblowing Policy (item 30)							
Audit & Governance minute for item 30, meeting of 29 September 2022							

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 16/03/2023