

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2022

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED WHISTLE-BLOWING POLICY

REPORT BY SHARON FAULKNER, DIRECTOR OF HR, DIGITAL ENABLEMENT, IT & BUSINESS SUPPORT

ABSTRACT

This report presents and seeks approval for the revised Whistle-blowing Policy.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee reviews and approves the Whistle-blowing Policy and Whistle-blowing Process (appendices 1 and 2).

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 This report supports the Council's priority to be efficient and effective by ensuring that Whistle-blowing reports are dealt with in a consistent and appropriate manner.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council's Whistle-blowing Policy has been the subject of a review and revision.

3.2 The revised policy incorporates best practice taken from Independent National Whistle-blowing Officer's draft standards.

3.3 The main additions to the Whistle-blowing Policy and arrangements are:

- references to partner organisation employees;
- the provision of HR support for prospective Whistle-blowers;
- the extension of reporting routes;
- an expanded section on how the council will handle a reported concern;
- a roles and responsibilities section for persons involved;
- a named support contact introduced for the Whistle-blower.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

6. CONSULTATION (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Consultation has taken place with Legal & Democratic, Human Resources, the Council's Leadership Team, and recognised trade unions.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

1. Whistle-blowing Policy
2. Whistle-blowing process.