

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
23 MARCH 2021:**

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY 2021

Cabinet Member Cllr Bob Deed, Leader of the Council
Responsible Officer Catherine Yandle, Operations Manager Performance, Governance and Health & Safety

Reason for Report: To present the Committee with the updated Whistleblowing Policy.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee approves the amendments to the policy.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: This policy supports good governance arrangements enabling confidence in delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Financial Implications: None identified

Budget and Policy Framework: This policy is included in the policy framework and reviewed every 4 years.

Legal Implications: Any legal requirements are embedded in the policy; no new or additional implications arise.

Risk Assessment: Without this Policy MDDC is at increased risk of not detecting fraud, corruption or financial irregularities, which could result in loss to the Council or damage its reputation.

Equality Impact Assessment: No equality issues identified for this report.

Impact on Climate Change: No impacts identified for this report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy was last approved at Audit Committee on 21 March 2017.
- 1.2 The legislation has not changed since the policy was last approved but some minor amendments have been made shown as tracked changes on the draft policy attached as Appendix A.

2.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

- 2.1 It is essential to have this policy in place to promote good governance and accountability within MDDC. MDDC wants to be an open and transparent employer and understands that whistleblowing can lead to improved services. There are good business reasons for listening to workers who raise concerns, as it gives an opportunity to stop poor practice at an early stage, before it becomes normalised and serious incidents take place.

2.2 This policy is reviewed every four years so unless there are any changes to the legislation the Committee will next review it in 2025.

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Circulation of the Report: Leadership Team and Cabinet Member