

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
21 MARCH 2017:**

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY 2017

Cabinet Member Cllr Peter Hare-Scott
Responsible Officer Director of Corporate Affairs & Business Transformation,
Jill May

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

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.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Team Leader has done a comprehensive re-write of the policy which hopefully addresses concerns raised at various committee meetings. The draft policy went to Scrutiny Committee on 13 February and the comments made at that meeting are reflected in the policy at Appendix A.
- 1.2 This policy was last approved at Audit Committee on 2 December 2014.
- 1.3 While the intent and legislation have not changed since the policy was last approved it is hoped that it is now more user friendly and that outside sources of advice and support are more clearly signposted.

2.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

- 2.1 It is essential to have this policy in place to promote good governance and accountability within MDDC. The Committee is therefore asked to approve the revised policy.
- 2.2 This policy is reviewed every four years so unless there are any major changes the Committee will next review it in 2021.

Contact for more Information: Catherine Yandle, Audit Team Leader ext. 4975

Circulation of the Report: Management Team and Cabinet Member