

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 1 OCTOBER 2019
COUNCIL – 23 JANUARY 2020

REVIEW OF THE SPEAK UP (WHISTLEBLOWING) POLICY 2019

REPORT OF THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE TEAM LEADER

1 SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 For the Audit Committee to review and recommend the adoption of the updated Speak Up (Whistleblowing) Policy 2019.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members of the Audit Committee recommend that the Council adopts the updated Speak Up (Whistleblowing) Policy 2019.

3 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>The Speak Up (Whistleblowing Policy) 2019 is important in promoting an open and honest culture and commitment to the highest possible standards of probity, accountability and transparency. This policy supports the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and makes it clear that concerns can be raised without fear of reprisals. It is intended to encourage and enable people raising concerns to raise them within the Council, irrespective of seniority, rank or status, rather than overlooking a problem or reporting the matter externally. These principle are essential for good governance as well as helping towards complying with the Council's obligations under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	<i>Approval by Audit Committee on 1 October 2019 adopted immediately.</i>	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	<i>Finance have confirmed that there is no financial impact</i>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<i>In accordance with the provisions of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 and the Employment Rights Act 1996, employees (and others) who raise concerns about specific types of wrongdoing benefit from statutory protection against detrimental treatment from their employer. The Speak Up (Whistleblowing) Policy sets out the measures that Telford and Wrekin Council employ to ensure that any staff who report concerns can be assured that they will benefit from that protection. It is good practice for organisations to have a Whistleblowing Policy in place. AL 3/9/2019</i>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<i>The Speak Up (Whistleblowing) Policy 2019 provides assurance on good governance and an open culture within the authority.</i>

IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	<i>Potentially Borough-wide impact</i>
---------------------------------	-----	--

4 INFORMATION

4.1 There is a requirement in section 11 of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference which states that the Committee is to:

'Approve the Speak Up Policy ('Whistleblowing') and to recommend its adoption by the Council, and to monitor its operation. This policy will be reviewed at least once every two years'.

4.2 The Policy was last updated in 2012 and has been updated to provide easier reporting methods including an online reporting form which allows anonymous referrals to be made.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

6 PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 N/A

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Constitution
The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference

Report by Andrew Hollis – Audit & Governance 383899