

Title of Report	REVIEW OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICIES	
Presented by	Councillor Nick Rushton Corporate Portfolio Holder PH Briefed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Background Papers	A&G Agenda and Draft minutes from 26.7.23	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The annual refresh and update of the policies is good practice and will enhance financial management within the Council.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Legal implications have been considered in the review of the policies.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Any staffing or corporate implications are detailed in the policies.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To seek Cabinet's comments on and approval of the Council's updated corporate governance policies.	
Reason for Decision	To ensure that the Council has an up to date suite of governance policies in place reflecting the law and best practice.	
Recommendations	<p>THAT CABINET:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NOTES THE COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MADE AT ITS MEETING ON 26 JULY 2023. 2. APPROVES THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICIES LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE REPORT. 	

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and standards of good governance. In discharging this responsibility, the Council has in place arrangements for the governance of its affairs and staff. The following documents constitute the Council's suite of corporate governance policies.

Policy	Last reviewed
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy	2022
Anti-Money Laundering Policy	2022
Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing Policy)	2022
Risk Management Policy	2022
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy	2022
Information Management Policy	2022
Data Protection Policy	2022
ICT and Cyber Security Policy	2022
Local Code of Corporate Governance	2022

2.0 POLICY REVIEW

The Policies have been reviewed by a team comprising Legal Services, Internal Audit, ICT, the Data Protection Officer, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

The main changes to each policy are summarised below:

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

Updated to reflect the Council's new management structure and latest terminology within the Council.

Anti-Money Laundering Policy

Updated to reflect the Council's new management structure and latest terminology within the Council.

Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing Policy)

Updated to reflect the Council's address, new management structure and latest terminology within the Council. The update also refers to the Council's external audit firm.

Risk Management Policy

Updated to include a new section on the current challenges facing the Council. This is in response to a recommendation made by Zurich following a recent review of the Council's risk management approach. In addition, changes have been made to reflect the Council's new management structure and latest terminology within the Council.

RIPA Policy

Updated to reflect Officers that are able to act as "Authorising Officers" under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) to include Heads of Service (previously this was just the Chief Executive and the Strategic Directors) – see paragraph 8.6. This change has been made to reflect the change made to the Constitution earlier this year (Part 2, Sec G4, Para 1.5) which includes Heads of Service as Alternative Proper Officers for the purpose of Part 11 of RIPA (Authorised Officers who may authorise, review or cancel the carrying out of

directed surveillance or the use of covert human intelligence sources). Also updated to reflect the Council's new management structure and latest terminology within the Council.

Information Management Policy

Updated to make reference to UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Update made to the Data Protection Officer role details and update to the Council's address.

Data Protection Policy

Updated to reflect the Council's address.

ICT & Cyber Security Policy

There have been no changes to this Policy.

Local Code of Corporate Governance

Updated in relation to the importance of the role of internal audit in the Council's governance and assurance processes.

The updated policies were considered by the Audit and Governance Committee at their meeting on 26 July 2023. A copy of the report and the draft minutes of the meeting can be accessed via the background papers. A member of the Committee requested that the details of the Council's address on each policy be checked for consistency.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	All those detailed within this report.
Safeguarding:	Whistleblowing, surveillance using RIPA and Protecting people's data are all considered to be safeguarding our communities.
Equalities/Diversity:	The opportunity for whistleblowing helps to ensure any risk of inequality or lack of diversity can be highlighted.
Customer Impact:	Anti-fraud, anti-money laundering and corruption will protect the customer from financial impact.
Economic and Social Impact:	Anti-fraud, anti-money laundering and corruption will protect the customer from economic impact
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	N/A
Consultation/Community Engagement:	N/A
Risks:	The risk management policy is one of the corporate governance policies.

Officer Contact

Anna Crouch
Head of Finance
Anna.crouch@nwleicestershire.gov.uk