

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET – TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025**



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>REVIEW OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICIES</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Keith Merrie Finance and Corporate Portfolio Holder PH Briefed <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#"><u>Audit and Governance Committee report 6 August 2025</u></a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
	<a href="#"><u>Audit and Governance Committee minutes 6 August 2025</u></a>	<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	The annual refresh and update of the policies is good practice and will enhance financial management within the Council.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	The policies are reviewed annually to ensure any updates in the law are noted so that the Council acts in accordance with the law.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	The suite of Corporate Governance Policies is regularly reviewed to ensure the Council operates effectively, in line with the appropriate standards	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek Cabinet's comments on and approval of the Council's updated corporate governance policies, following review and approval by the Audit and Governance Committee.	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	To ensure that the Council has an up-to-date suite of governance policies in place reflecting the law and best practice.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT CABINET APPROVES THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICIES LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 1.2 OF THE REPORT.</b>	

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and appropriate standards. In discharging this responsibility, the Council has in place arrangements for the governance of its affairs and staff.

1.2 The following documents constitute the Council's suite of Corporate Policies:

Policy	Last Reviewed
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy	2024
Anti-Money Laundering Policy	2024
Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy	2024
Risk Management Policy	2024
RIPA Policy	2024
Local Code of Corporate Governance	2024
<b>Information Governance Framework</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Data Protection Policy</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Information Security Policy</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Information Rights Policy</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Records Management Policy</b>	<b>2024</b>

1.3 An annual review of the suite of policies has been undertaken and the revised draft policies are appended to this report.

1.4 Cabinet may recall that last year the Council adopted a new Information Governance Framework (the "Framework"), which incorporated four policies in relation to Data Protection, Information Rights, Information Security and Records Management. Underneath the policies sits a suite of guidance and procedures for use by officers within the Council to ensure compliance with the policies within the Framework. As the Framework has been in place for nearly a year, a more thorough review has been undertaken to assess whether the balance is right between requirements contained in policies and information contained in guidance. That review has taken longer than expected, as it involves cross-working between various services, including Information Governance and IT. Considering this, the review of these policies will be taken to the Audit and Governance Committee in November 2025 and then brought to Cabinet at its next available meeting. It is intended that in future years, the Framework and associated policies will fall back within the Annual Corporate Governance Policies review.

## 2.0 POLICY REVIEW

2.1 Save for those in bold text, the policies outlined in paragraph 1.2 have been reviewed by the relevant officers responsible for them.

2.2 The main changes to each policy are summarised below:

### **Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy**

There have been no changes in legislation that affect this policy since the previous review. Therefore, only minor amendments have been made including updates to names referenced within the policy.

### **Anti-Money Laundering Policy**

There have been no changes in legislation that affect this policy since the previous review. Therefore, there have not been any amendments made to the policy following this review.

### **Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing Policy)**

There have been no changes in legislation that affect this policy since the previous review. Therefore, only minor amendments have been made including updates to names, contact details and the Council's address.

### **Risk Management Policy**

There have been no changes in legislation that affect this policy since the previous review. Therefore, there have not been any amendments made to the policy following this review.

### **RIPA Policy**

There have been no changes in legislation that affect this policy since the previous review. Therefore, there have not been any amendments made to the policy following this review.

### **Local Code of Corporate Governance**

There have been no changes in legislation that affect this policy since the previous review. Therefore, only minor amendments have been made to the formatting of the document.

The updated policies were considered by the Audit and Governance Committee at their meeting on 6 August 2025. A copy of the report and the draft minutes of the meeting can be accessed via the background papers. The Committee did not require any amendments to be made to the policies.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council.
Policy Considerations:	As detailed within the 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 any negative economic impacts
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	N/A.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	N/A.
Risks:	As part of its Corporate Governance arrangements, the Council must ensure that Risk management is considered and satisfactorily covered in any report put before elected Members for a decision or action. The purpose of this report is to set out the review undertaken by Corporate Governance Policy authors and detail the changes made. As part of this, the Risk Management Policy is reviewed annually.
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