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## Joint Consultative Group

**Notes of a meeting held on Thursday, 11th January, 2024 at 2.30 pm in the Level 4 Meeting Room, Town Hall and via Teams.**

**PRESENT** In the Chair - Ashley Watts (Director of Community and Environmental Services)

Councillors: Neil Buttle (Deputy Leader of the Council), Peter Slack (Deputy Leader of the Council and Deputy Civic Chair of the Derbyshire Dales) and Marilyn Franks

Staff Representatives: Nancy Maitland (Economic Development & Tourism Officer), Ashley Watts (Director of Community and Environmental Services), Leanne Richardson (Senior Internal Auditor), Dale Wright (Clean & Green, GMB Representative) and David Martin (Clean & Green Supervisor) (Clean & Green Supervisor)

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), Deborah Unwin (Human Resources Manager), Helen Mitchell (Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)), Alena Greenwood (Community Safety Officer) and Angela Gratton (Democratic Services Officer)

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor(s): David Burton (Civic Chair of the Derbyshire Dales), David Chapman, Steve Flitter (Leader of the Council) and Susan Hobson (Leader of the Opposition)

Officer(s): Dave Turvey (Events Manager)

## J12/23 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Peter Slack, Seconded by David Martin and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Group held on 26 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

### **J13/23 - INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **J14/23 - EMPLOYEE GROUP - NOTES 16 NOVEMBER 2023**

It was moved by Councillor Neil Buttle, Seconded by Leanne Richardson and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

That the notes of the meeting of the Employee Group held on 16 November 2023 be received.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

### **J15/23 - SAFETY COMMITTEE NOTES - 20 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Chief Executive informed members that following the retirement of the Director of Regulatory Services, who co-ordinates the District Council's Health & Safety, there would be a requirement for corporate Health & Safety support. As a result, it was noted that options for working in partnership with Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council were under consideration.

It was moved by Nancy Maitland, Seconded by Councillor Neil Buttle and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

That the notes of the meeting of the Safety Committee held on 20 September 2023 be received.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

### **J16/23 - REVIEW OF THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

The Director of Corporate of Customer Services (Monitoring Officer) introduced the revised Whistleblowing Policy, seeking approval and adoption of the revised policy.

Leanne Richardson, Internal Auditor, requested that the form be made easily accessible and for the External Auditors details to be included in the revised policy.

David Martin requested that physical forms be made available at the Depot.

It was moved by Leanne Richardson, Seconded by David Martin and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That the Whistleblowing Policy be endorsed by the members of the Joint Consultative Group.

2. That the Governance and Resources Committee be recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Governance and Resources Committee, to review and make minor amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy to reflect changes in legislation or statutory guidance when introduced.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

## **J17/23 - REVIEW OF DERBYSHIRE DALES SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

14:53 Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer) left the meeting.

Alena Greenwood (Community Safety Officer) introduced the report giving an overview of the proposed implementation of a revised Safeguarding Policy, seeking approval and adoption of the revised policy.

It was noted that once approved, further digital training was planned to be rolled out for Staff, with further physical training for staff based at the Depot and further training specifically for Councillors. Councillor Marilyn Franks suggested that the Councillor training should be held in person, the Director of Community and Environmental Services agreed to this. It was agreed that Member training would be considered mandatory, and that further encouragement would be required to improve Member attendance.

The Director of Community and Environmental Services informed members that the Corporate Leadership Team were reviewing the list of staff with valid DBS checks and looking into if any further DBS checks were required. Members agreed that employees should be required to self-declare any changes in their DBS status, with an employer check which could be included on the yearly PDR form.

Leanne Richardson (Internal Auditor) enquired as to how this would work for external Contractors, the Group were informed that Contractors were required to notify the Council of any breaches.

It was moved by Councillor Peter Slack, Seconded by Councillor Neil Buttle and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously)

1. That the Governance and Resources Committee be recommended to adopt the revised Safeguarding Policy 2024-27 as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. That the Governance and Resources Committee be recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Community & Environmental Services and the cross departmental Corporate Safeguarding Leads to review and make minor amendments to the Safeguarding Policy to reflect changes in legislation or statutory guidance when introduced.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

**End: 3.10 pm**

**Chair**