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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

24 January 2024

PRESENT: - Cllr J Lee (Chairman)

Cllr A Davison (Vice-Chair), and Cllr H Rowson

Cllr L Yeadon, Cllr J Matthews and Cllr H Yates attended the meeting in accordance with Procedure Rule 1.37(b).

The meeting was held at the Room F01, Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

183 **SUBSTITUTIONS.**

There were no substitutes.

184 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS OF WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS (IF ANY).**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests.

No whip was declared.

185 **PUBLIC SPEAKING REQUESTS, IF ANY.**

No public speaking requests had been received.

186 **ITEM REQUESTED FOR CALL-IN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 22 OF PART D RULE 5 (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES) OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Councillor A Davison and Councillor L Yeadon to introduce their reasons for calling in the decision. The reasons being -

We wish to call in this decision as we do not believe it goes far enough and we would urge the Panel to consider asking for amendments to the report. We believe that the Council should be looking at introducing a facility whereby an employee can make an anonymous submission without fear of being identified at the initial stage. Perhaps an annual survey of all staff, council-wide, and anonymously, may identify potential issues or common complaints/concerns within a department. Whilst we recognise there is a current whistleblowing policy, we believe that the structure as it is may deter staff with potential

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concerns from having the confidence to make approaches as outlined in the document/policy.

The signatories did not indicate whether they believed that the decision was contrary to the policy framework or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

Councillor E Marper, Investment, Outcomes and Governance Cabinet Member, responded to questions, explained the rationale for the decision, and described the suite of policies, strategies and arrangements that were in place to support staff. The Director: Outcomes assisted the Cabinet Member by responding to technical questions about the council's policy and its implementation. The Director confirmed that the option of conducting a staff survey had been discussed and was under consideration.

Resolved – That no further action be taken, and the decision be implemented with immediate effect.

187 **ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED.**

There was no urgent business for consideration at the meeting.