

**5.3 RENAMING OF COUNCILLORS' DISCRETIONARY FUND POLICY**

(NA)

Responsible officer: Jarrod Doake, Chief Operating Officer

**RECOMMENDATION***That*

1. *The Councillors' Discretionary Fund Policy and Procedures be amended by it being retitled as "Council Discretionary Fund Policy and Procedures"*
2. *The new title be applied to any reference to the Fund that occurs in the discretionary fund policy and procedures document.*
3. *The new title be applied to all documents associated with the discretionary fund policy and procedures.*

**INTRODUCTION**

This report proposes the renaming of the Councillors' Discretionary Fund Policy and Procedures (and associated documents), to address concerns expressed by the Local Government Inspectorate.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The Local Government Inspectorate recently contacted Council officers regarding the Councillors' Discretionary Fund Policy and Procedures, seeking to ensure that it accorded with the changes made to the Local Government Act 1989, in 2015, to prohibit the adoption of policies or the making of budgetary allocations allowing individual councillors to nominate the allocation of funds.

The Inspectorate accepted officers' advice that such a practice had never been adopted by this Council, that its discretionary fund policy pre-dated the amendment to the Act, and that the policy ensured that the Act's requirements were met. However, the Inspectorate expressed concern at the name of the document, recommending a title change to better reflect its purpose.

It is therefore recommended that the document be amended with the word "Councillors" being replaced with the word "Council", in the title and anywhere else in that document that references the discretionary fund by name. The implementation of the change, if approved, would be straightforward, with the policy and procedures document itself, as well as associated documents such as application forms and templates used by officers, being amended to reflect the change.

The Inspectorate has agreed that the proposed amendment would provide for a more suitable policy title.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications with this recommendation.

**CONCLUSION**

This report addresses concerns expressed by the Local Government Inspectorate concerning the title of the Councillors' Discretionary Fund. Accordingly, it is recommended that the title and any other references to the Fund in the policy and procedures, and in all associated documents, be amended.