

WHISTLEBLOWING: POLICY & PROCEDURE (Report by the Audit Manager)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In response to the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1999 the Council adopted in February 2000, a policy and procedure which provides a framework for staff who, in good faith, make a disclosure (whistleblow) about wrong doing within the Council.

2. THE REVIEW

- 2.1 This is the third review of the policy and procedure. A report compiled following the review has been considered by both the Chief Officers Management Team and the Monitoring Officer, who have endorsed the conclusion that no changes are required to the current policy and procedure.

- 2.2 Since the last review there has been one whistleblowing allegation received.

- 2.3 A Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Council in September 2003. The section of the Code that refers to Standards and Conduct includes the following paragraph, 'The Council shall put in place arrangements for whistleblowing to which staff and all those contracting with the council have access'.

- 2.4 As part of the implementation of the Code the following actions have been agreed:

- Publicity is to be given to the whistleblowing policy both within and outside the Authority
- The whistleblowing policy, procedure and electronic disclosure form are to be published on the Council's website
- A standard whistleblowing condition shall be prepared and included in all contracts that exceed £30k.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The whistleblowing policy and procedure is part of the Council's governance and ethical framework. The annual review has concluded that the policy and procedure remain appropriate and do not need to be amended.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee are asked to note the report and the actions to be taken from the Council's adoption of a Code of Corporate Governance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure

Code of Corporate Governance

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