

WHISTLEBLOWING: ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE POLICY & PROCEDURE**(Report by the Audit & Risk Manager)****1. ANNUAL REVIEW**

- 1.1 The whistleblowing policy and guidance are reviewed annually to ensure they continue to be fit for purpose. The policy was introduced to allow any employee, contractor or member of the public the opportunity to report, without fear of victimisation, a serious or sensitive concern (e.g. a potential fraud or corrupt act, any danger to health and safety or the mistreatment or abuse of any customers, particularly children).
- 1.2 This year's review of the policy and guidance has been completed and no changes are considered necessary to either document.

2. PUBLICITY AND MATTERS RAISED

- 2.1 Staff and customers have a number of ways to raise whistleblowing concerns. These include an internet form, a specific email address and dedicated 24 hour telephone. District Wide is used to publicise whistleblowing together with posters that are distributed both inside and outside the Council.

- 2.2 18 concerns have been received through the various whistleblowing reporting channels.

- 12 related to housing or council tax benefit claims
- 3 were concerning potential abandoned vehicles
- 1 was concerned with planning issues
- 1 was concerned with a housing matter
- 1 was referred to the Dept of Work & Pensions.

12 of the concerns were made anonymously.

- 2.3 All of the items reported referred to service delivery issues. None have questioned the honesty or integrity of Council staff. None could be classed as true whistleblowing concerns. No issues need to be brought to the Panel's attention at this time. All the concerns have been reported to the relevant manager.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Panel are **recommended** to note that a review has been undertaken but that no changes are required to the current policy or guidance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure

Whistleblowing allegations received

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