

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14TH JUNE 2019

REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note the report and approve the Council's Corporate Whistle blowing Policy for the next 12months.

Reasons:

The subject matter of this report falls within the remit of the Committee

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

Not applicable

Exec Board Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr E Dole (Leader)

Directorate

Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees-Jones

Report Author:

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Designations:

Head of Administration & Law

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

14TH JUNE 2019

REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE WHISLEBLOWING POLICY

The Constitution of the Council provides that the Standards Committee is required to annually review the Corporate Whistleblowing Policy.

The attached policy has been reviewed by officers in light of any changes in legislation, case law and guidance since the last review and officers are satisfied that the Policy continues to be fit for purpose and therefore does not require further revision at this stage.

Officers have considered whether the passing of EU Directive 2018/0106 into EU in April has any impact upon the Policy. The directive introduces stronger protections for employees who report breaches of EU law but member states are not required to assimilate it into domestic law until May 2021.

Given the current uncertainty regarding the United Kingdom's departure from the EU officers have concluded that it would be premature to amend the policy to take into account the terms of the Directive at this time.

During 2018/2019 a total of 6 Whistle blowing complaints were received. Of these, 1 was resolved after an initial investigation concluded that no action was required. The remaining 5 matters are ongoing.

In addition 3 cases were carried over from 2017/2018. Of these 1 is still ongoing. Of the other 2 cases, one resulted in no action as there was no evidence to substantiate the complaint and the other case resulted in recommendations to improve procedures which have been implemented.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: L R Jones

Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: L R Jones

Head of Administration and Law

1. **Scrutiny Committee** - Not applicable
2. **Local Member(s)** - Not applicable
3. **Community / Town Council** - Not applicable
4. **Relevant Partners** - Not applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - *Not applicable*

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal file	DPSC-170	Legal Services, County Hall