

Report of: The Corporate Director of Resources

Audit Committee	Date: 19th September 2017	Ward(s): N/A
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Part of the report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) Paragraphs 1, 2, 7 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely: Information relating to an individual. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SUBJECT: Whistleblowing Report April 2017 to August 2017

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The report confirms that whistleblowing arrangements are in place and operating effectively, and that investigating fraud is an integral part of the Council's Anti-Fraud Strategy.

Whistleblowing arrangements are a key element of the Council's overall governance arrangements. It is the mechanism to "empower the honest majority" in the fight against fraud and corruption and is an integral part of the Council's Anti-Fraud Strategy.

Whistleblowing allows employees, members, contractors and others, to raise concerns about fraud and corruption. There are separate reporting mechanisms for adult and child protection allegations. Whistleblowing information is located within the Human Resources policies and procedures section of the Council's intranet.

A review of the Council's Whistleblowing arrangements and policy was undertaken in March 2014, by the Council's Monitoring Officer. A review of the policy is due in 2017.

The Council's Whistleblowing Officer is the Head of Internal Audit.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of the report

3. Background

- 3.1 Effective whistleblowing arrangements are a key element of effective governance arrangements within the Council. The Council's Whistleblowing Policy details how referrals can be made to the Council.

4. Implications

Financial implications:

- 4.1 None arising from the content of this report.

Legal Implications:

- 4.2 None arising from the content of this report.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3 None arising from the content of this report.

Resident Impact Assessment:

- 4.4 There are no direct Resident Impact Assessment implications arising from this report.

5. Reasons for the recommendations / decision:

- 5.1 The report presents an update on whistleblowing received from April to August 2017 .
- 5.2 The Council is obliged under the Public Interest Disclosure Act to maintain a Whistleblowing Policy, designed to encourage staff, members, contractors and others to raise concerns without fear of reprisal.

Signed by
Corporate Director of Resources Date

Received by
Head of Democratic Services Date

Appendices

- Appendix A - Whistleblowing Report: April to August 2017

Background papers:

- Anti-Fraud Strategy

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