



AUDIT COMMITTEE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (ADVISORY)

15 January 2019

SECOND DESPATCH

Please find enclosed the following items:

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| Item 1 | Authorisation of external investigation into Whistleblowing complaints | 1 - 4 |
| Item 1 | Authorisation of external investigation into Whistleblowing complaints - exempt appendices | 5 - 6 |

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Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Audit Committee	15 th January 2019	n/a

Delete as appropriate	Exempt (Appendix)	
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THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Part of the report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

SUBJECT: AUTHORISATION OF EXTERNAL INVESTIGATION INTO WHISTLEBLOWING COMPLAINTS

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 A whistleblowing complaint has been received and Committee is being asked to approve the appointment of an appropriate external investigator.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of an appropriate external investigator, to undertake an investigation into the whistleblowing complaints described in this report.
- 2.2 To authorise the Assistant Director, Corporate and Dispute Resolution to select and appoint the investigator.
- 2.3 To agree that the findings of the independent investigation are reported back to a future meeting of the Audit Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1 Whistleblowing arrangements are a key element of the Council's overall governance arrangements. Whistleblowing allows employees, members, contractors and others, to confidentially raise concerns surrounding fraud and corruption.
- 3.2 The Council takes all allegations of impropriety very seriously and in this instance are recommending the appointment of an external investigator to ensure that an independent and robust investigation is undertaken.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The use of an external investigator will give rise to additional costs. It is not possible at this time to estimate the likely cost of this appointment, however the Council's s151 officer is satisfied that the costs can be contained within the Council's budget.

4.2 Legal Implications:

External counsel's advice on the matter is that it is appropriate for external investigation. This view is shared by officers with detailed knowledge of the matter.

4.3 Environmental Implications

None arising from the content of this report.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed because the decision currently being sought does not have direct impacts on residents.

5. Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 To ensure that an independent, objective investigation into the whistleblowing complaints is duly undertaken.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Authorisation of external investigation into whistleblowing complaints (Exempt)

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



9 January 2019

Corporate Director of Resources

Date

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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