



Report of: The Corporate Director of Resources

Audit Committee	Date: 15 th October 2018	Ward(s): All
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Delete as appropriate	Exempt (Appendix)	
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THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

The appendix is not for publication as it contains exempt information within the definition in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended on 1 March 2006). Information contained in this report is exempt because it falls within:

- Paragraph 2 of Schedule 12A as it includes information which is likely to reveal the identity of individuals;
- Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A as it includes information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons;
- Paragraph 7 as it includes information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

SUBJECT: Whistleblowing Report - April 2017 to January 2018

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.

The Council's Whistleblowing Officer is the Head of Internal Audit, Investigations and Risk Management.

- 1.2 The report gives detail of referrals between April and August 2018. This is compared against referrals made in the previous years.

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 The original Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 provisions, inserted in the Employment Rights Act 1996, were amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 to introduce a new public interest requirement. The Council must have regard to the Government's Whistleblowing Guidance for Employers and Code of Practice (2015).

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 referrals received from April to August 2018.
- 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

Service Director - Financial and Asset Management
(S151 officer)

Date 25th
September 2018

Appendices

- Appendix A - Exempt

Background papers:

- None

Report author: Nasreen Khan, Head of Internal Audit, Investigations and Risk Management

E-mail: nasreen.khan@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Mohammed Sajid

Email:
mohammed.sajid@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author:
Peter Fehler

Email:
peter.fehler@islington.gov.uk

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