



Report of: Corporate Director – Resources

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Audit Committee	5th October 2021	-	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt (Appendix)	
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Part of the report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) Paragraphs 1, 2, 7 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972,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THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION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: Bi- Annual Whistleblowing Monitoring Report – 1st February 2021 to 31st August 2021

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The report seeks to provide assurance that whistleblowing arrangements are in place and operating effectively, and that investigating fraud is an integral part of the Council's Anti-Fraud Strategy. The Council's Whistleblowing Officer is the Head of Internal Audit, Investigations and Risk Management. 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.
- 1.2 Whistleblowing allows employees, members, contractors and others, to raise concerns surrounding potential fraud and corruption. There are separate reporting mechanisms for adult and child protection allegations. The Whistleblowing policy was reviewed and updated in May 2020 and January 2021 in line with good practice. Whistleblowing information is located within the Human Resources policies and procedures section of the Council's intranet. Audit Committee receive bi-annual whistleblowing monitoring reports. The last update, covering the

period to 31st January 2021, was presented to Audit Committee in March 2021. This report provides details of referrals made between 1st February 2021 and 31st August 2021, as well as provides an update on cases that were open at the time of the last report to Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the report.

3. Background

3.1 Effective whistleblowing arrangements are a key element of effective governance arrangements within the Council.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications

The programme of work has been met from within the existing Internal Audit (Investigations) budget. The financial implications of individual investigations are met by local budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice and support will be provided, where necessary, in relation to individual investigations.

4.3 Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in 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.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Whistleblowing Monitoring Report (Exempt)

Final report clearance:



Signed by:

David Hodgkinson – Corporate Director of Resources

Date:

21 September 2021

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