



**Report of: Corporate Director – Resources**

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b>
Audit Committee	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022		All

<b>Delete as appropriate</b>	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Part of the report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) Paragraphs 1, 2, 7 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972,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## **THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION**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 September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

### **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, contractors and others, to raise concerns surrounding potential fraud and corruption. There are separate reporting mechanisms for adult and child protection allegations, in line with the Council's whistleblowing policy. 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 August 2021, was presented to Audit Committee in October 2021. This report provides details of referrals that were assessed as whistleblowing referrals between 1st September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The report ordinarily provides an update on cases that were open at the time of the last report to Committee. In this iteration, there were no open cases reported at 31st August 2021.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Committee is asked 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 Equality Impact Assessment**

The Council has a public sector equality duty (PSED) to make sure that our policies, practices, and services do not discriminate against anyone and ensure that Islington's commitment to equality is translated into practice.

An Equality 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:** **7 March 2022**

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**REPORT ENDS**