

Finance

7 Newington Barrow Way

London N7 7EP

Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of: Audit Committee

Date: 13th March 2023

Wards: All

Part of the report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Paragraphs 1, 2, 7 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972,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.

THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: Bi-Annual Whistleblowing Monitoring Report – 1st August 2022 to 31st January 2023

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. This report seeks to provide assurance that whistleblowing arrangements are in place and operating effectively. 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, partner agencies 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 June 2022 in line with good

practice. Whistleblowing information is located within the Human Resources policies and procedures section of the Council's intranet.

- 1.3. The Council's Audit Committee receives bi-annual whistleblowing monitoring reports. The last update, covering the period to 31st July 2022, was presented to the Audit Committee in September 2022. This report provides details of referrals made between 1st August 2022 and 31st January 2023, and provides an update on referrals that were open at the time of the last report to Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 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**

- 4.1.1. 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**

- 4.2.1. 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 and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

- 4.3.1. There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 4.4.1. 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.

4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because the decision currently being sought does not have direct impact on residents.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1. To note the details of whistleblowing monitoring arrangements.

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Whistleblowing Monitoring Report (Exempt – not for publication)

Final report clearance:

As agreed by: Corporate Director of Resources

Date: 23 February 2023

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