

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY 20th January 2011

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report on the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the report be noted.

1.0 Report

1.1 Members will recall that the Committee reviewed the Council's Whistleblowing Policy at its meeting in January 2009, and approved an amended policy. The Monitoring Officer reports annually in January each year on the operation of the Whistleblowing Policy.

1.2 During the past year no concerns have been lodged under the Whistleblowing Policy.

1.3 When no concerns are raised under the Whistleblowing Policy it is always difficult to assess whether this is because there are no concerns, or because employees do not know how to raise concerns or are reluctant to do so. The amended Policy was drawn to the attention of all employees in February 2009, and this was repeated through First Brief in February 2010, and a further reminder will be given in next month's First Brief.

1.4 The Monitoring Officer will continue to submit annual reports on the operation of the Policy.

2.0 Conclusion

2.1 The report is for noting.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her role as adviser to the Standards Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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