

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY 21st January 2010

Report of the Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to review 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.

1.2 The amended Policy was then relaunched to employees through the Council's "First Brief" procedure, which is a monthly briefing for all employees.

1.3 During the year only one concern has been lodged under the Whistleblowing Policy, and this was anonymous. This was investigated by the Corporate Director (Finance and Performance) as it related to a Service within his directorate. The Corporate Director reported to the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer that the concern was unfounded. Clearly because the matter was raised anonymously, it was not possible to respond in accordance with the Whistleblowing Policy.

1.4 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 it is intended that this will be repeated through First Brief in February 2010.

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

2.0 Conclusion

3.1 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

Contact Officer: Mrs S Taylor

Telephone: 01524 582025

E-mail: STaylor@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: