

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY 19th January 2012

### 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 A reminder of the Whistleblowing Policy was provided to all staff through First Brief in February 2011, and this will be repeated this year.
- 1.3 During the past twelve months there has been one incident which has been treated as tantamount to whistleblowing, even though the Policy was not referred to at the time when the matter was first raised. A member of staff raised concerns about the Council's partnership arrangements for repairs and maintenance, in particular with regard to a contract with the partner organisation for the rendering of Council housing at Hala. As a result, the matter was referred to Internal Audit, whose report found that the level of assurance was substantial, the headline messages being that good arrangements were in place for monitoring progress and spend on individual contracts, that contracts had been completed within agreed timescales to a high standard, and that customer feedback indicated a high level of satisfaction amongst tenants with the work carried out. The Internal Audit report has been considered by Cabinet and will be considered by the Audit Committee.
- 1.4 The Monitoring Officer will continue to submit annual reports on the operation of the Whistleblowing 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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