

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July 2015</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Review of Whistleblowing Policy</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

### 5. Summary

The Standards Committee is responsible for establishing and monitoring the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

The Policy was reviewed in June 2014, however following the findings of the Jay and Casey reports and the publication of Whistleblowing Guidance for Employers and Code of Practice by the Department for Business Innovations and Skills (BIS), it has been identified as part of the Council's Improvement process that it is appropriate for the current Whistleblowing Policy be reviewed again.

### 6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Standards Committee:

- i) Note that a revised draft Policy will be prepared initially for consideration by the Working Party of the Standards Committee, which is being established.
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## 7. Proposals and Details

The Standards Committee Terms of Reference include responsibility for establishing and monitoring the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy. Otherwise known as the Confidential Reporting Code, the Whistleblowing Policy was reviewed and revised by the Standards Committee in June 2014. This review of the Policy carried out in accordance with British Standards PAS 1998:2008 "Whistleblowing Arrangements Code of Practice".

However following the findings of the Jay and Casey reports and the publication of Whistleblowing Guidance for Employers and Code of Practice by the Department for Business Innovations and Skills (BIS), in March 2015 it is appropriate for the current Whistleblowing procedure to be reviewed and revised again.

A copy of the current Whistleblowing Policy is attached at **Appendix 1**.

A copy of the BIS Whistleblowing Guidance for Employers and Code of Practice is attached at **Appendix 2**.

As this is the start of the review and revision process, members of the Standards Committee are asked to consider and comment on the following in respect of the current arrangements:

1. Perceived strengths and weaknesses of the current policy
2. Knowledge of good practice elsewhere
3. Suggestions in respect of specific areas of concern
4. External contacts/helpline
5. Where whistleblowing complaints are reported to and regularity of reporting
6. Suggestions for Improvements to the processes/Policy
7. Suggestions for raising awareness of Policy
8. Suggestions for improving organisational culture in respect of whistleblowing
9. Suggestions/comments in general

Members comments/suggestions/proposals will be fed into the review & revision of the policy.

## **8. Finance**

Review and revision of the policy will be met within current resources.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There is a risk that if an appropriate whistleblowing policy is not implemented and promoted to employees, serious matters whereby an alert should be raised, may not be reported.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Standards Committee – Responsibility for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct.

Whistleblowing Policy – Highlights the importance of workers being able to pass on information concerning wrongdoing.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Whistleblowing Policy ie Confidential Reporting Code  
BIS Whistleblowing Guidance for Employers and Code of Practice  
ACAS Guidance re Whistleblowing  
Various local authority Whistleblowing Policies  
NHS Guidance following Francis report

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