

Summary Sheet

Standards and Ethics Committee Report

Standards and Ethics Committee – 21st March 2019

Title

A Review of Concerns raised pursuant to the Whistleblowing Policy

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

N/A

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

A report regarding concerns raised pursuant to the Whistleblowing Policy and the actions taken to address these matters.

Recommendations

- i) That the Committee notes the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Whistleblowing Concerns

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

The Appendix to this report will be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relating to an individual).

Title

A Review of Concerns raised pursuant to the Whistleblowing Policy

1. Recommendations

1.1 That the Committee notes the Whistleblowing concerns raised over the previous year and the actions taken to address these matters.

2. Background

2.1 This report provides an overview of the Whistleblowing cases which have been received over the past year.

2.2 A description of the concerns received over the past year, along with the relevant action to address these matters is at Appendix 1. This is appropriately anonymized in order not to identify the whistleblower, pursuant to the policy in respect of confidentiality.

3. Key Issues

3.1 Matters reported are described within Appendix 1. It is important for there to be oversight of matters being reported pursuant to the Whistleblowing Policy.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

4.1 Recommendations have been referred to above.

5. Consultation

5.1 N/A

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 N/A

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 Any work undertaken by Legal Services in dealing with these matters is within the budget for Legal Services.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide an appropriate Whistleblowing Policy and arrangements for dealing with concerns raised through the policy.

9.0 Human Resources Implications

9.1 None

10.0 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 None

11.0 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 The Whistleblowing Policy is available to all employees, workers and contractors of the Council.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None

13.0 Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There is a risk that if serious misconduct is not reported pursuant to the Whistleblowing Policy, serious issues will not be appropriately investigated and addressed.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Dermot Pearson, Assistant Director, Legal Services