



REPORT of DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

**to
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
11 JUNE 2019**

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the annual report on the Whistleblowing Policy

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the content of this report be noted.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Last year the Council updated the Whistleblowing Policy.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Policy is to provide a procedure for employees to disclose any concerns about malpractice by any colleague or councillor. The “whistle-blower” is assured that there will be no discrimination or discipline against her / him providing the concern is honestly held.
- 3.3 Malpractice would include a criminal offence, fraud or corruption, damage to the environment, safeguarding concerns, negligence, theft or misuse of public money or failure to follow the Council’s finance, contract or other rules.
- 3.4 In practice this will cover matters such as unauthorised use of public funds; unauthorised disclosure of confidential information; physical and sexual abuse; health and safety risks to both staff and members of the public; and the acceptance of bribes. However, these are only examples of the types of conduct that are likely to fall within the relevant types of wrong doing, and this is not an exhaustive list.
- 3.5 During the last municipal year there have been no “whistle-blower” concerns registered with the Section 151 Officer (Emma Foy), the Head of Paid Service (Richard Holmes) or the Monitoring Officer (Simon Quelch).

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 There is nothing to suggest that the Policy is inadequate bearing in mind that it was only revised last year. The lack of whistleblowing concerns should also be viewed positively as the Council starts a new municipal year.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** - None.

Background Papers: The Whistleblowing policy.

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