



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

**to
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2017**

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Committee on the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure and on any complaints made under the Policy during 2016 / 17.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the content of this report be noted.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council's revised Whistle-Blowing Policy was adopted by Council on 9 May 2013. This policy was made under the provisions of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, and makes provisions for internal confidential disclosure of allegations of malpractice. The legislation provides protection for workers who raise legitimate concerns in good faith where the worker has a reasonable belief that any of the following is being, has been, or is likely to be committed:

- A criminal offence;
- A miscarriage of justice;
- An act creating risk to health and safety;
- An act causing damage to the environment;
- A breach of any other legal obligation; or
- Concealment of any of the above.

- 3.2 The Legal and Democratic Services Manager (as the Council's Monitoring Officer) is designated the "Whistleblowing Officer" to whom complaints may be made on a confidential basis.
- 3.3 The Committee should note that no complaints were made under the Whistleblowing Policy for the year 2016 / 17.
- 3.4 The Legal and Democratic Services Manager was due to undertake a review of the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure during the 2016 / 17 municipal year. This has

not yet occurred and this action has been carried forward within the Legal and Democratic Services Level 2 Business Plan for the 2017 / 18 municipal year. The intention of the review will be to ensure that the Council's Policy remains robust and current. As part of that review consideration will be given to the frequency with which the Policy is to be reviewed moving forwards, in order to ensure this is captured as part of planned activity. This review will take place in June 2017.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure needs to be kept up to date on a periodic basis to reflect the Council's structure and any other necessary legislative amendments.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 The maintenance of policies to enable the reporting of concerns contributes to our Corporate Goal "Delivering good quality, cost effective and valuable services".

6. 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)** – The Director of Resources will undertake the review of the policy and procedure during 2017 / 18.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: Whistleblowing Policy.

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