

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Mayor Councillors Mrs Huggins, Ms Ballard, Bateman, Burgess, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Foster-Reed, Hook, Mrs Hook, Hylands, Jessop, Murphy, Philpott, Mrs Prickett, Raffaelli and Westerby (Substituting for Herridge)

23. UPDATED WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Internal Auditor seeking approval from Members in regards to the draft updated Whistleblowing Policy 2020.

Members were advised that this report contained a fairly substantial update and outlined the assurances the Council will give to employees making referrals and outlining how the process will be managed to ensure consistency. The methods of communication have been extended.

Members welcomed the report and fully supported the additional anonymity and confidentiality the process afforded employees.

RESOLVED: That the Policy and Organisation Board approve the draft updated whistleblowing Policy

25. COVID UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Finance providing the Board with an update of the financial impact to the Council as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members welcomed the report and felt it put into perspective the cost to the Council of Covid 19, and recognised that there was an ongoing commitment for the foreseeable future. They were reassured that there would be no cuts to frontline services as a result of this additional expenditure.

Members also wanted to recognise the additional workload and responsibilities the Covid situation had put upon all officers, in particular those dealing with the homeless and vulnerable. There was also praise for the way in which voluntary organisations, churches and the community as a whole had come together to support those most in need.

Members expressed a wish to be kept updated on these figures and this would be done though the Members Information Bulletins.

The Board noted the report.

26. ANY OTHER ITEMS

There were none.

Policy and Organisation Board
29 September 2020

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 7.20 pm