

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Standards & Governance Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Whistleblowing Policy & Statistics
<b>Author:</b>	Chief Internal Auditor
<b>Status:</b>	FOR NOTING

## **Purpose**

To update Members in regards to the Whistleblowing Policy and any referrals made from October 2020 to October 2021.

## **Recommendations**

- a. That the Standards & Governance Committee note that no referrals have been made under the Whistleblowing Policy between October 2020 and October 2021
- b. The whistleblowing policy has been reviewed and no changes have been made

## **1. Background & Purpose**

1.1 The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 gives employees certain rights in relation to whistleblowing. An employee has a right to make a protected disclosure to prescribed persons where the employee reasonably believes:

- 1.1.1 A criminal offence has, or is going to be committed;
- 1.1.2 There is a breach of a legal obligation;
- 1.1.3 A miscarriage of justice;
- 1.1.4 There is a danger to the health and safety of any individual;
- 1.1.5 There will be damage to the environment; or
- 1.1.6 There is deliberate concealment of information tending to show any of the above five matters.

1.2 The Act provides that employees shall suffer no detriment to their employment as a result of blowing the whistle, including disciplinary action.

1.3 The Policy applies to all Council staff, including employees, temporary workers, agency staff and any contractor remunerated by the Council.

## **2. Report**

- 2.1 No referrals were made under the Whistleblowing policy between October 2020 and October 2021
- 2.2 A review was undertaken on the existing policy to ensure it still met the requirement of the legislation. Following the review, no changes were made to the Policy.

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1 That the committee note the statistics in relation to the use of Whistleblowing for the period October 2020 to October 2021 and note that the policy has been reviewed and no changes were necessary.

<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	Nil
<b>Legal Services comments:</b>	Nil
<b>Crime and Disorder:</b>	Nil
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	Nil
<b>Service Improvement Plan implications:</b>	
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	It supports the Council in pursuit of excellence through delivering an effective and high quality governance evaluation and monitoring.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	Not to take this action would have potential legal, governance, and risk management implications for the Council
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>Appendices/Enclosures:</b>	N/A
<b>Report author/ Lead Officer:</b>	Paul Somerset - Chief Internal Auditor