

COMMITTEE: AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE

DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

SUBJECT: WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY – ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER

CONTACT OFFICER: RICHARD STEVENS

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

COMMUNITY

SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL

OTHER

STAFFING

OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. To report to the Committee on the operation of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the Committee note the report.

BACKGROUND

3. The Council introduced its current Whistleblowing Policy (Appendix A) with effect from 19 February 2007.
4. The Whistleblowing Policy is available to all Council employees (apart from school based staff who are subject to their own procedures), agency staff and to Council contractors and suppliers.
5. This Committee has within its terms of reference "To consider general issues and statistics in relation to the Council's Corporate "Whistleblowing" Policy and to make recommendations to Standards Committee for developments of the Policy where appropriate." The role of recommending any amendments to the Whistleblowing Policy lies with the Council's Standards Committee.

REPORT

6. This report covers the period of the Financial Year 2009/10.
7. During 2009/10 3 complaints were received. The comparable figure for 2008/09 was 10.
8. The complaints fell into the following categories:

Breach of LBC e-mail policy	1
Carrying out private work in Council time	1
Irregularity in tendering procedures	1

TOTAL **3**

9. The following table shows the breakdown for 2009/10 (with 2008/09 and 2007/08 for comparison) between complaints received direct by me as Monitoring Officer (shown in Appendix B by the suffix letter M in the reference) and those received and referred by the Council's external confidential reporting line operated by In-Touch (shown in Appendix B by the suffix letter T in the reference). In addition, in 2009/10 one complaint was received by another Council Department and referred on to me by a senior officer of that Department (shown in Appendix B by the suffix letter D in the reference).

	<u>Direct to Monitoring Officer</u>	<u>Referred by In-Touch</u>	<u>Referred by Dept.</u>
2009/10	2 (67%)	0 (0%)	1 (33%)
2008/09	3 (30%)	7 (70%)	0 (0%)
2007/08	6 (67%)	3 (33%)	0 (0%)

This shows a significant decrease in the use of the Whistleblowing Policy over the year and, in particular, a steep decline in referrals from In-Touch where none were received during the year.

10. The above complaints are shown on the attached table at Appendix B.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no legal implications to this report and this was agreed with Richard Stevens in Legal Services on 07 September 2010.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no equalities implications to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no financial implications to this report and this was agreed with the Finance and Airport Client Manager, Customer and Corporate Services Department on 9th September 2010.

APPENDICES

14. The following Appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A: - Whistleblowing policy in operation from 19.02.07
(Pages 8/4-8/12)

Appendix B: - Table of Whistleblowing complaints for 2009/10.
(Page 8/13)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

There are no background papers to this report other than documents which contain exempt information within the meaning of Section 100I of and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

