

Report on the Confidential Reporting Code for Employees

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Recommended:

That the report of the Monitoring Officer on the Council's Confidential Reporting Code for Employees be received.

SUMMARY:

- This report updates members as to the content and use of the Council's Confidential Reporting Code for Employees.

1 Introduction

1.1 In accordance with its terms of reference, the Council's Audit Committee is to:

"Monitor council policies on whistleblowing and the anti-fraud and anti-corruption strategy and the council's complaints process."

1.2 This report provides members with an update as to the use of the Council's Confidential Reporting Code for Employees to enable them to carry out that monitoring function.

2 Background

2.1 One of the Council's 'whistleblowing' mechanisms is its Confidential Reporting Code for Employees.

2.2 The Confidential Reporting Code is set out in and forms part of the Council's Constitution and a copy of the Code is annexed to this report.

2.3 The Confidential Reporting Code is available to all employees and contractors and is aimed at giving those who wish to raise concerns the assurance that they may do so confidentially within the Council. The Code sets out the procedure for making a report, the process that will be followed and the safeguards which will be put in place.

2.4 The Confidential Reporting Code is one of the means by which employees or contractors may voice concerns on a confidential and protected basis.

2.5 The Code operates in addition to and alongside the Council's complaints procedures, Human Resources policies, Anti-Fraud Policy and grievance procedures.

2.6 Any change to the Council's Confidential Reporting Code for Employees must be approved by full Council unless it falls into a category of change which may be effected by the Monitoring Officer subject to reporting the change to full Council.

2.7 Members are asked to note that no reports have been made under the Confidential Reporting Code for Employees in the last twelve months.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

3.1 Having procedures in place to enable a safe space for reporting any suspected wrongdoing or poor practice supports the Council's corporate objectives of growing the potential of the Borough's town centres, communities, people and the local environment.

4 Risk Management

4.1 No risks arise as a result of this report.

5 Resource Implications

5.1 There are no resource implications of this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

7 Equality Issues

7.1 No equality issues arise out of this report. Equality considerations will be taken into account as required on a case by case basis as and when reports are considered under the Confidential Reporting Code.

8 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

8.1 Members are requested to receive this report and note its content.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
Audit Committee Terms of Reference			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Democracy and Governance) Councillor I Jeffrey			
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Report to:	Audit Committee	Date:	27 March 2023