



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy

Report Author and contact details:

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Policy context:

To update the committee on activity under the Confidential Reporting Policy.

Financial summary:

There is no specific financial impact to be considered from this report.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Clean, safe and green borough	[]
Excellence in education and learning	[]
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	[]
Value and enhance the life of every individual	[]
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	[X]

SUMMARY

The Confidential Reporting Policy forms part of the Council's Corporate Governance Framework and has been reviewed and updated by the Officer Governance Group in 2012. Trade Unions have been given the opportunity to comment on the updated policy and a final draft version is presented to Governance Committee for approval, along with an update on activity surrounding this policy in recent years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

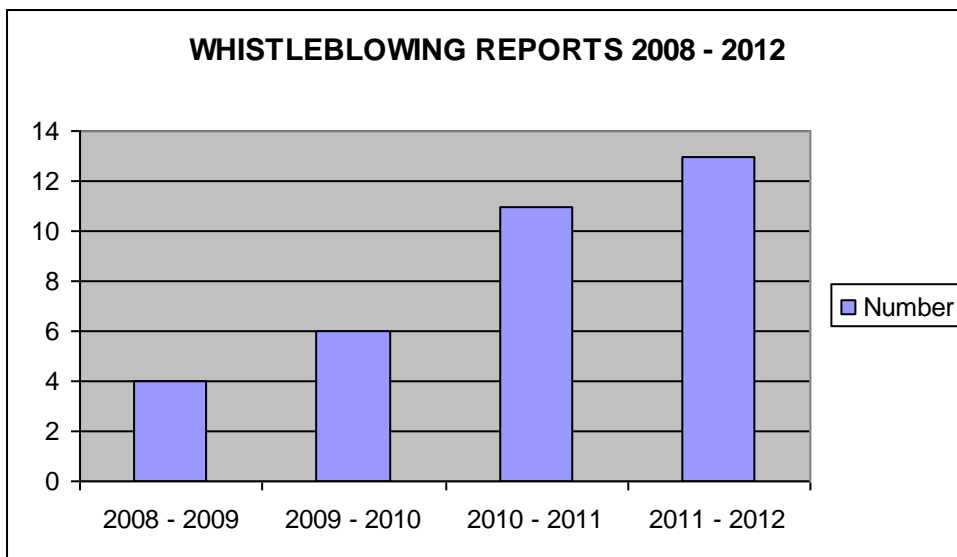
1. To note and comment on the contents of the report.
2. To approve the updated Confidential Reporting Policy.
3. To note that minor changes to the job titles within the policy may be

- required following the implementation of the Senior Management Restructure.
4. To delegate authority to make these changes to Group Director Finance & Commerce.

REPORT DETAIL

The Confidential Reporting Policy is more commonly referred to as the 'Whistleblowing Policy' and forms part of the Council's Corporate Governance Framework.

To date in the current financial year there have been 15 whistleblowing reports. The figures for the last four financial years are included in the table below and indicate an increase year on year.



The Whistleblowing Policy has been reviewed by the Officer Governance Group in 2012. No comments were received by the Trade Unions. A draft version for approval is attached as Appendix A of this report. The changes made are noted below:

- 1) Change of ownership from Council's Monitoring Officer to Group Director Finance & Commerce as most activity under the policy is undertaken within Internal Audit and Human Resources.
- 2) Individuals covered by the policy has been extended to ensure all relevant groups are covered including volunteers.
- 3) The format of the policy has been updated to make it more reader friendly.

On approval by the Committee the updated policy will be publicised to all relevant parties and will be made available on the intranet.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None directly arising from this report, the resources required to investigate reports under this policy are available within existing budgets.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no Legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no HR implications arising from this report, HR are involved with investigations resulting from reports particularly where an investigation triggers a disciplinary process. All action taken in response to an investigation under the Confidential Reporting Policy would be taken in accordance with the Council's Disciplinary Policy and Procedures and or the Council's Fraud Strategy.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are no Equalities implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Equalities Impact Assessment – Confidential Reporting Policy.