

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

5th DECEMBER 2006

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

RICHARD LONG, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek a decision from Members to determine whether a review should be undertaken of the Council's current Whistleblowing Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Members instructions are requested.

BACKGROUND

3. In June 2000 the Council's Cabinet considered and accepted a report proposing a Whistleblowing Policy. The purpose of the Policy is to enable staff to raise, without fear of retribution or harassment, concerns about what may or may not be happening at work. This is particularly appropriate in respect of matters of concern relating to possible unlawful practices by the Council, e.g. breach of health and safety or individual malpractice by officers, e.g. financial irregularities, or contractors, e.g. corruption.
4. However, to date only one such disclosure has been made and that is currently being investigated.
5. As part of its annual work programme the Committee decided to review the Policy to ensure it is still appropriate. A copy of the Policy is attached as Appendix 1.

R G Long
Director of Legal & Democratic Services

Background Papers – No background papers