

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

23RD FEBRUARY 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

APPLICATION OF THE COUNCIL'S WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members upon the application of the Whistle Blowing Policy across the Council.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1 The Whistle blowing Policy directly contributes to maintaining the probity of the Authority and its ability to process the Corporate Improvement Plan and all Corporate Priorities.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Members are aware that the Council has a Whistleblowing Policy, which was designed to encourage and reassure employees who genuinely and reasonably believe there are concerns which they should disclose by enabling them to do so within a framework which ensures they are protected from reprisals or victimisation.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 For members' information, a copy of the Whistleblowing Policy is attached as **Appendix 1**. The monitoring of the operation of the Whistleblowing Policy is one of the functions delegated to the Standards Committee. A copy of the Whistleblowing Policy is attached as **Appendix 1**, for Members' information.

- 4.2 Utilisation of the Policy by a council employee regarding the Councils Electoral Services Unit, has led to a finding of considerable irregularity within the service and the dismissal of two employees. For information, the report upon the Electoral Services Section, investigated as a result of a disclosure made under the Whistleblowing Policy is attached as **Appendix 2** to this report. Whilst the Whistleblowing Policy hasn't been used extensively until this occasion, this is an excellent example of the value of the policy to the Authority.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

The Whistleblowing Policy is contained within the Officers' Codes of Conduct within the Constitution and contributes to the maintenance of probity in the Authority.

6. Legal Implications.

There are no legal implications to this report.

7. Financial Implications.

There are no financial implications to this report.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 Members are requested to note the report

**P.A. Jolley,
Director Legal and Democratic Services.
19th February 2007**

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Background documents

No documents other than those referred to within the report were used in the preparation of this report.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 2