

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8 MARCH 2018

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

1. Purpose of Report

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

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Members are aware that the Council has a Whistleblowing Policy, which is designed to encourage and reassure employees who genuinely and reasonably believe that 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.

- 3.2 An audit review of the Whistleblowing Policy was undertaken in 2014 as part of the 2013/14 annual Internal Audit Plan. During the audit a number of strengths and areas of good practice were identified as follows:

- Management are considering improvements on how the Whistle Blowing Policy can be disseminated to staff at induction and through the use of ICT software.
- The policy was found to be compliant with existing legislation.
- The policy allows whistle blowers the option to raise concerns internally in confidence.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The Whistleblowing Policy has now been reviewed and a copy of the amended Whistleblowing Policy is attached at **Appendix 1**. The monitoring and operation of the Whistleblowing Policy is one of the functions delegated to the Standards Committee.

- 4.2 The Whistleblowing Policy will be presented to Cabinet for approval and then published on the Council's intranet and website. Additionally, it is proposed to announce the Policy by means of a Bridgend's message and invite all officers with concerns and questions, or wishing to discuss the operation of the Policy, to contact

the Monitoring Officer. It is considered that this approach will enable officers to receive training in an effective, targeted and specific manner.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The Policy contributes to the maintenance of probity in the Authority.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 None.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendation

8.1 Members are recommended to note the report.

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Background Documents

None