

Appendices: 0



STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Effectiveness of the Council's Whistleblowing Arrangements
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Committee Meeting Date:	2 December 2019
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to provide the Committee with an update on the effectiveness of the whistleblowing arrangements in place at the Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the information provided in relation to the effectiveness of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background and Issues

- 3.1.1 The Work Programme for the Standards Committee 2019/2020 states that information relating to the effectiveness of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure would be presented to the Committee December meeting.
- 3.1.2 The Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure was approved at the meeting of the Council held on 19 June 2017. It was subject to a further review and update in March 2019. The following activities took place in 2018 and remain current:
- The Employee's Code of Conduct was updated in December 2017 and again in December 2018, this refers to the Council's whistleblowing arrangements.
 - ExpoLink are the external provider of the whistleblowing hotline. Reports can be made by using either the dedicated hotline phone number or online via this [link](#).

- A dedicated mobile phone number has been implemented and can be used by staff to report concerns internally. This phone is held by the Governance and Risk team.
- Posters setting out the contact details for ExpoLink have been placed around the Guildhall.
- A verbal update was provided at a manager's session, with those attending advised to ensure that their staff were aware of the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure.
- Whistleblowing hotline wallet cards were also issued to all staff with their payslips in June 2018.
- An intranet post, reminding all staff of the Council's whistle blowing arrangements, is scheduled for November 2019.

3.1.3 Monthly Whistleblowing hotline summary reports are received from Expolink. For the current financial year, one call has been received and investigated.

3.2 Choices

3.2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 This report does not have any direct policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 This report does not have any direct resource implications.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 This report does not have any direct legal implications.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Not applicable.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None.

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer