

Appendices: 0



STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Committee Meeting Date:	3 December 2018
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 It was agreed at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 September 2018 that information relating to the effectiveness of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting in December.
- 3.1.2 The Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure was approved at the meeting of the Council held on 19 June 2017. Since this date the following activities have taken place:
- The Employee's Code of Conduct was updated in December 2017 and makes reference to the Council's whistleblowing arrangements.
 - ExpoLink were appointed as the external provider of the whistleblowing hotline in January 2018. 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.
- The Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure was launched via a series of posts on the intranet.
- 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.

3.1.3 Monthly Whistleblowing hotline summary reports are received from Expolink. As at 31 October 2018, no calls had been received via the whistleblowing hotline.

3.1.4 As at 8 November 2018, the Governance and Risk Manager had received one whistleblowing compliant via email. This is in the process of being 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