

Chichester District Council

CABINET

5 January 2016

Public Interest Disclosures (Whistleblowing) Policy

1. Contacts

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Cabinet Member:

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2. Recommendations to Council

2.1. That the revised Public Interest Disclosures (Whistleblowing) Policy is approved.

2.2. That the Head of Business Improvement Services be authorised to approve future minor and legislative changes to Human Resources policies after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Support Services.

3. Background

3.1. The Whistleblowing Policy needs periodically to be reviewed to respond to any changes to legislation, best practice or to relevant council procedures or structures. As the policy had not been formally reviewed for some years it was considered appropriate to submit it to the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee for consideration.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

4.1. To ensure that the policy remains compliant with legislation and best practice.

5. Proposal

5.1. The Public Interest Disclosures (Whistleblowing) Policy is reviewed annually by the Principal Auditor to ensure that it remains compliant with legislation and best practice and has been amended slightly. It was submitted to the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee for its consideration on 24 November 2015 where some additional proposed amendments to the policy were made. The changes make it clearer that the policy can be used by non-employees (the public, contract workers

and councillors) with changes also to the sections on legislation, record keeping and contacts. It should be noted that any investigations required as a result of disclosures will be facilitated more easily in future by the recent appointment to Audit Services of a Corporate Counter Fraud Officer. To increase awareness of the Whistleblowing Policy, it will be further publicised to staff and the public via the normal internal channels and on the council's website.

6. Alternatives that have been considered

Not applicable.

7. Resource and legal implications

None.

8. Community impact and corporate risks

None.

9. Other Implications

Crime & Disorder:		None
Climate Change:		None
Human Rights and Equality Impact: Equality Impact Assessments have been completed and are available as background papers.		None
Safeguarding:		None

10. Appendix

10.1. Whistleblowing Policy

11. Background Papers

11.1. None

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