



## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Date Written	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Report Author	Carys Kennedy
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

## **Whistleblowing**

### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 It was agreed at the meeting of the Standards Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 that an annual report from the Monitoring Officer would be included in the Committee's work programme.
- 1.2 Previous meetings of the Standards Committee have been presented with reports setting out data about whistleblowing referrals that had been made over the course of previous years and their outcomes. There has also been a report containing details of an action plan arising from the review undertaken by the Wales Audit Office which has now been completed.
- 1.3 At the time of writing this report there are no live whistleblowing complaints, but the Council needs to be certain that staff are reminded of the process and have sufficient information to enable them to make a report if needed. To that end a programme of awareness raising will need to be agreed by Corporate Management Team.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that**

- 2.1 The content of this report be noted and a further report be presented to Committee following CMT consideration and agreement of an awareness raising plan.

### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council is required to have a whistleblowing policy and procedure which provides a format where members of staff can report any behaviour or practice which causes them concern and may potentially put the organisation at risk. The Council has to provide clear and robust protection to any whistleblower and must make it as straightforward as possible for any person to make such a referral. The Council's policy/procedure is contained within the constitution and was updated in accordance with legislation in December 2014.
- 3.2 It was agreed that there would be an annual report to Standards committee to monitor any significant trends and identify whether any particular governance issues arise from the data.
- 3.3 As there have been no further whistleblowing referrals for some time it is considered appropriate to remind staff of the process and ensure they are aware of the procedure for making a complaint.
- 3.4 A process for raising staff awareness will be agreed by CMT and a further report brought back to this Committee to advise on progress with that process.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report as all work connected with this process will be met from departmental budgets.

**CARYS KENNEDY**  
**MONITORING OFFICER**

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		