

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Standards Committee

Date: 16th December 2003

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

Subject: Whistleblowing Policy

Ward(s) affected: All

1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the draft Whistleblowing Policy and recommendations to finalise, implement and raise awareness of its use.

2 Recommendations

The Standards Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the draft Whistleblowing Policy and provide first impressions of draft.
- 2.2 A small working group of officers and members to carry out a brief piece of work to progress the policy to final agreement by the Standards Committee and to go forward to Council. Members of the working group will carry out consultation with all interested parties including Human Resources and Trade Unions, and implementation including raising awareness.

3 Background

- 3.1 Following the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, the City Council introduced a Whistleblowing Policy. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 protects employees against the detrimental treatment or dismissal as a result of any disclosure of normally confidential information in the interests of the public. The Act only covers protected disclosures under six categories, namely; crime, illegality, miscarriage of justice, damage

to health and safety, damage to the environment, and cover-ups ' about these issues.

- 3.2 There have been no concerns raised by employees under the Whistleblowing Policy since its introduction. This has obviously raised concerns over its effectiveness and awareness amongst employees.

Meeting/Date	Standards Committee
Report of	Head of Internal Audit
Subject	Whistleblowing Policy
Wards affected	All

Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Legal implications

There are not direct legal implications

Corporate/Citywide implications

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

Risk assessment

Sustainability implications

There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications

There are no direct equalities implications.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

Background papers

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Contact Offices

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