



Committee and date
Standards Committee

1 July 2010

Item No

15

Public

WHISTLE-BLOWING

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Summary

To inform the Committee of the existence of the whistle-blowing policy and how members and officers are updated on the policy.

Recommendations

- A. That the report be noted and that copies of the explanatory leaflet regarding the Speaking up about Wrongdoing (Whistle-blowing) process referred to in paragraph 9, be circulated to all members of the Council.

Report

Information

1. Shropshire Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. Part of meeting that commitment is to encourage employees and others who have serious concerns to speak up without fear of reprisals. Others may include members, contractors, voluntary agencies and partners.
2. This process is termed "blowing the whistle" and the phrase is used throughout the 'Speaking up about Wrongdoing policy' encouraging the positive action of speaking up.

3. The guidance and policy for employees is given to all staff in the Employee Induction Handbook, on “Speaking up about Wrongdoing”.
4. The Policy was revised and re-launched in January 2010 and is included in Part 5 of the Constitution (E74-79), on the website.
5. An intranet reminder on whistle blowing was issued to all staff in January 2010 and leaflets were distributed to all employees. All staff are provided with counter fraud and anti-corruption information as part of their induction process.
6. Wrongdoings may relate to:
 - Fraud and corruption;
 - Discrimination;
 - Abuse of children;
 - Abuse of vulnerable adults; or
 - Damage to the environment
7. The Policy sets out what employees and others should do and what will happen as a result.
8. Later on this agenda, the Committee will receive a report reviewing the 2009/10 ‘Speaking up about Wrongdoing’ (Whistle-blowing) Procedure. Via this paper, Members of the Standards Committee will help ensure that employees and others can raise concerns about fraud, corruption, adult protection, harassment or bullying allegations.
9. Members can find out more about the ‘Speaking up about Wrongdoing’ process by accessing the policy on the Internet or Intranet, referred to the relevant pages in the constitution or through the leaflet to be distributed to all members.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The contents and proposals within this report are compatible with the Human Rights act 1998

Environmental Appraisal

N/A

Risk Management Appraisal

The contents and proposals of this report are in compliance with good risk management

Community / Consultations Appraisal
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N/A

Cabinet Member

N/A

Local Member

N/A

Appendices

Copy of the Speaking up about Wrongdoing Leaflet
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