

**TRANSFER OF DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COUNCIL'S  
WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

*To:* **Constitution and Ethics Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **27 September 2018**

*From:* **Acting Monitoring Officer**

*Purpose:* **Consider the transfer of its current constitutional responsibility for the council's whistleblowing policy to the council's Audit & Accounts Committee**

*Recommendation:* **To recommend to Full Council that the constitution is amended to pass the delegated responsibility for the council's whistleblowing policy and oversight from the Constitution & Ethics Committee to the Council's Audit & Accounts Committee.**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There is currently an overlap in the Council's constitution regarding responsibility for whistleblowing reports and oversights of the whistleblowing policy.
- 1.2 The Constitution and Ethics Committee has '**Authority to approve any changes regarding the Council's Whistle-Blowing policy and arrangements**' (Part 3B-8) whilst the Audit and Accounts Committee's delegated authority includes (following revision last July, Part 3B-7) '**To maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of contract procedure rules, financial regulations, codes of conduct etc.**' and '**To monitor council policies on "raising concerns at work" and anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies, including the Council's complaints process**'.
- 1.3 In 2017 revisions to the Whistleblowing Policy were required and it was sent to the Audit and Accounts Committee along with revised draft Anti-Fraud and Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering policies. In July 2017 the General Purposes Committee approved the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering policies and in September 2017 the Constitution and Ethics Committee approved the revised Whistleblowing Policy, noting that it had been 'endorsed'.
- 1.4 The Chief Internal Auditor presented the annual Whistleblowing Report to the Audit and Accounts Committee on 29 May 2018 and the report includes the statement that "as part of the new policy, Internal Audit is due to produce an annual report to the Audit and Accounts Committee" ([Link to Audit & Accounts report](#)). This report aims to identify any patterns of concern and assess the effectiveness of the policy.
- 1.5 It appears there is an overlap between the remit of two committees on 'raising concerns at work' and 'whistleblowing'. Internal Audit hold the council's whistleblowing records and the Chief Internal Auditor is responsible for the policy so it would seem logical for reports to be made to Audit & Accounts Committee instead of Constitution & Ethics Committee. This will reflect the new policy and procedures and the current working practice and avoid an overlap of roles in future.

## 2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 If the Committee is in agreement the recommendation is to delete the delegated authority in Part 3B Responsibility for Functions in the constitution relating to the Constitution and Ethics Committee's in relation to "Authority to remove any changes regarding the Council's Whistle-blowing policy and arrangements".
- 2.2 The delegation can then be added to the delegated authority for Audit & Accounts Committee in section 2.4 after "to monitor council policies on "raising concerns at work".

Source Documents	Location
None	