

CABINET - 9TH FEBRUARY 2005

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING POLICY

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To monitor the operation of the Council's Confidential Reporting Policy, and to consider a modification.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At its meeting on the 14th December 2004, the Standards Committee considered the attached report (Appendix 1) on the Council's Confidential Reporting (i.e. Whistleblowing) Policy (Appendix 2).
- 2.2. The Standards Committee noted the report and support my proposal that paragraph 3.1.2 of the Policy should be amended as follows:-

The Council recognises that the decision to report a concern can be a difficult one to make. If what you are saying is true, **or if you have reasonable grounds for believing that it is true**, you should have nothing to fear because you will be doing your duty to your employer and those for whom you are providing a service.

- 2.3. The reason for this proposal is that, even if a concern does not prove to be true, it may nonetheless have been raised in good faith and based on reasonable grounds.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1. It is proposed that the Council be recommended to amend paragraph 3.1.2 of the Confidential Reporting Policy as set out in paragraph 2.2 of this report.

4. FINANCE

- 4.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. LAW

- 5.1. The Council appoints employees in order to undertake its various statutory functions under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 111 of the 1972 Act enables the Council to do any thing which is

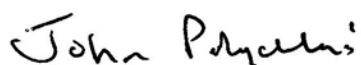
calculated to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

6. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- 6.1. The Confidential Reporting Policy complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

7. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1. It is recommended that the Council be recommended to amend paragraph 3.1.2 of the Confidential Reporting Policy as set out in paragraph 2.2 of this report.



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J. POLYCHRONAKIS
Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: John Polychronakis, Tel: (01384 81)5300.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Various e-mails from Council Directorates in 2004.