

# MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2005

## CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING POLICY

### REPORT OF THE CABINET

#### 1. PURPOSE

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

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 the proposal of the Monitoring Officer 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.
- 2.4. In considering a report of the Monitoring Officer regarding the above, the Cabinet at its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005, resolved to recommend the Council to support the amendment of the Policy as set out above.
- 2.5. The Cabinet also recommended that consideration be given to amending the list of contacts under paragraph 7.5 of the policy to include an appropriate external contact (in consultation with the Bishop of Dudley) and a female representative (the Director of Social Services). The Bishop of Dudley has been consulted and is agreeable to being appointed as the external contact. The Director of Social Services is also agreeable to her inclusion as an additional contact officer.

### **3. PROPOSALS**

That the Council approve the amendment of:-

- 3.1 Paragraph 3.1.2 of the Confidential Reporting Policy as set out in paragraph 2.2 of this report.
- 3.2 The list under paragraph 7.5 of the Policy to include the Director of Social Services as an additional internal contact and the Bishop of Dudley as an external contact.

### **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 anything 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 endorse the proposals set out in paragraph 3 above.

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LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

#### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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