

Audit and Governance Committee



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Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Draft whistleblowing policy and draft anti fraud and corruption policy with associated response plan

Recommendation

- 1 That the Audit and Governance Committee approves the draft whistleblowing policy and the draft anti fraud and corruption policy with its associated response plan.
- 2 That the Audit and Governance Committee recommends that Executive or the portfolio holder for Legal and Democratic Services approves and adopts the draft whistleblowing policy and the draft anti fraud and corruption policy with its associated response plan.

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the committee to comment upon the adequacy of the council's proposed arrangements in relation to whistleblowing and fraud and corruption. 'Whistleblowing' policies allow employees to report concerns appropriately and in confidence. The draft whistleblowing policy and the draft anti fraud and corruption policy with its associated response plan are attached to this report. These documents have been developed jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council.
2. Consultations have been carried out with Vale members and staff and with Unison and the draft documents have been amended in the light of the responses received. Similar consultations have been carried out at South Oxfordshire DC.

Corporate Priorities

3. The whistleblowing policy and the anti fraud and corruption policy with its associated anti fraud and corruption response plan form an important element in the objective of managing our business effectively.

Background

- 4 In March, this committee considered an internal audit report on the council's anti-fraud and corruption arrangements. Members noted that the roles and responsibilities for anti-fraud and corruption arrangements had not been clearly defined and that this had led to a limited assurance rating, despite all of the auditor's recommendations being agreed.
5. Officers agreed to work with Internal Audit to ensure best practice and consistency with South Oxfordshire District Council. The audit report recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee should formally approve the documents with an implementation date of September 2009. Unfortunately, it has taken rather longer to finalise them.

Financial Implications

- 6 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications

7. The policies will ensure a robust approach to tackling fraud and corruption and promote a framework for the reporting of allegations of fraud and corruption.

Conclusion

8. The committee is asked to consider and comment on the draft whistleblowing policy and the anti fraud and corruption policy with its associated anti fraud and corruption response plan that are attached to this report. The committee is asked to recommend these documents to the Executive or to the portfolio holder for approval and adoption.

Background papers

- None