

## Brighton & Hove City Council

### For general release

**Meeting:** Standards Committee

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2003

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

**Subject:** Whistleblowing Policy

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **1 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the draft Whistleblowing Policy and recommendations to finalise, implement and raise awareness of its use.

### **2 Recommendations**

The Standards Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the draft Whistleblowing Policy and provide first impressions of draft.
- 2.2 A small working group of officers and members to carry out a brief piece of work to progress the policy to final agreement by the Standards Committee and to go forward to Council. Members of the working group will carry out consultation with all interested parties including Human Resources and Trade Unions, and implementation including raising awareness.

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 Following the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, the City Council introduced a Whistleblowing Policy. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 protects employees against the detrimental treatment or dismissal as a result of any disclosure of normally confidential information in the interests of the public. The Act only covers protected disclosures under six categories, namely; crime, illegality, miscarriage of justice, damage

to health and safety, damage to the environment, and cover-ups ' about these issues.

- 3.2 There have been no concerns raised by employees under the Whistleblowing Policy since its introduction. This has obviously raised concerns over its effectiveness and awareness amongst employees.

<b>Meeting/Date</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Internal Audit
<b>Subject</b>	Whistleblowing Policy
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

#### **Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **Legal implications**

There are not direct legal implications

#### **Corporate/Citywide implications**

There are no implications arising directly from this report.

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#### **Risk assessment**

#### **Sustainability implications**

There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

#### **Equalities implications**

There are no direct equalities implications.

#### **Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder**

There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

#### **Background papers**

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#### **Contact Offices**

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