



**Governance & Audit
Committee**

15th June 2021

Subject: Review of Whistleblowing Activity 2020/21

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Head of Policy, Strategy and Sustainable
Environment / Monitoring Officer

Purpose / Summary:

Report on the annual review of the
Whistleblowing Policy, including any instances of
staff using the procedure.

**RECOMMENDATION(S): 1. That Members assure themselves that the Whistleblowing Policy in place is working effectively.
2. Members may recommend changes to be incorporated into the policy for consideration by the Joint Staff Consultative and Corporate Policy & Resources Committees.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Financial : FIN/27/22/TJB

None from this report

Staffing : None

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

NB: Please explain how you have considered the policy's impact on different groups (for example: young people, elderly, ethnic minorities, LGBT community, rural residents, disabled, others).

Data Protection Implications : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report : Whistleblowing Policy <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-council/have-yoursay/whistleblowing>

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Introduction

1.1 The Whistleblowing Policy provides a method for employees to raise concerns about the running of the Council, or concerning behaviours exhibited within it, without the risk of victimisation. All employees have access to this policy. This committee has been receiving regular updates on this matter since 2008.

1.2 The current Policy has been in place since October 2019 and is attached at Appendix One.

2. Whistleblowing Policy

2.1 There have been no whistleblowing procedures carried out over the last three years up to and including 2020/21. The policy continues to be publicised to all staff members and it is also highlighted to new starters in their induction.

2.2 For transparency purposes, this report is presented to the Governance and Audit committee annually; even in the event of no whistleblowing incidents.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Whilst there have been no reported cases this year, it is still vitally important that we maintain this policy and continue to publicise the reporting mechanism.

3.2 Recent third party reviews such as the Peer Review and the Good Governance audit have provided objective assurance that a prevailing culture of honesty exists across the Council.

4. Recommendations

1. That Members assure themselves that the Whistleblowing Policy in place is working effectively.

2. Members may recommend changes to be incorporated into the policy for consideration by the Joint Staff Consultative and Corporate Policy & Resources Committees.