

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Audit and Governance Committee **DATE:** 11th January 2017

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Ward: All

PART I **FOR INFORMATION/CONSIDERATION**

REVIEW OF WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

1. **Purpose of Report**

To advise the Committee of the review of the Whistleblowing Policy which it is proposed will be undertaken by the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer.

2. **Recommendation**

That the Interim Monitoring Officer reviews the current Whistleblowing Policy in order to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

3. **Other Implications**

None as the report is administrative in nature.

4. **Supporting Information**

- 4.1 The Committee is established each year at the Annual Council meeting to ensure amongst other things that the Council operates in accordance with the principles of good governance.

Background

- 4.2 Over the course of the last few months a number of anonymous whistleblowing complaints have been received by the Council. This is an unsatisfactory position as it shows a lack of confidence in the Whistleblowing Policy as people are not prepared to be named.
- 4.3 Confidence needs to be restored in the Whistleblowing Policy and in order to achieve this it is essential that it is robust and fit for purpose. It needs to protect both the whistleblower and the person against who the accusations are made. The review would aim to address these issues.
- 4.4 In addition, an investigation has taken place into an anonymous whistleblowing allegation. The consultant who was recommended by the LGA to carry this investigation out recommended in his report that the Whistleblowing Policy should be reviewed.

5 **Appendix**

Appendix A - Whistleblowing Policy.