

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Head of Internal Audit for South Holland DC

To: Governance and Audit Committee 11 March 2021

Author: Faye Haywood, Internal Audit Manager

Subject: Whistleblowing Policy

Purpose: This report introduces the recently reviewed Whistleblowing policy at South Holland District Council.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That members review and approve the updates made to the Whistleblowing policy.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Whistleblowing policy is required to be reviewed and approved by Governance and Audit Committee every three years. The policy was last approved by the Committee in December 2017 and is therefore due for update and re-approval.

2.0 CURRENT PROGRESS

- 2.1 The 2017 version of the Whistleblowing policy has been reviewed and as a result it is not considered necessary to make any changes to either the policy wording or accompanying guidance. Updates were however required for the following areas:
 - Officer roles and job titles updated with latest position. Please note the policy will need to be updated once vacant posts have been filled.
 - References to Compass Point Business Services removed and updated to Public Sector Partnership Services Ltd.
 - Cross references made to PSPS Whistleblowing Policy
 - PSPS references to HR Manager role
 - Addresses and telephone numbers for raising concerns externally.
- 2.2 Updates made to the policy are shown in track changes for ease of reference. The updated policy has been attached at **Appendix 1** of this report.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee are required to review and approve the Whistleblowing Policy once every three years. In doing so, the Committee is ensuring that the policy reflects the latest best practice and contains up to date information.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 **Corporate Priorities**

4.1.1 The Council is committed to maintaining an open culture with the highest standards of honesty and accountability. As this is demonstrated, the Council is relied upon to deliver the Council's corporate priorities.

4.2 **Financial**

4.2.1 This policy provides guidance covering the reporting of misconduct or malpractice in managing the Council's finances and highlights that any concerns raised will be taken seriously and will be investigated.

4.3 **Risk Management**

4.3.1 The Council is committed to maintaining an open culture with the highest standards of honesty and accountability. Defining the Council's approach to whistleblowing and providing guidance on how to raise concerns helps to protect the Council against significant reputational risks.

Background papers: - None

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post: Faye Haywood Internal Audit Manager for South Holland DC

Telephone Number: 01508 533873

Email: fhaywood@s-norfolk.gov.uk

Director / Officer who will be attending the Meeting Faye Haywood, Internal Audit Manager for South Holland DC

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

Appendices attached to this report: Draft Whistleblowing Policy March 2021 – track changes