

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CODE (Whistleblowing)

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service for Overview and Scrutiny	Jayne Pickering – Executive Director, Finance and Resources
Wards Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	No – not at this stage
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To present to Executive the updated Confidential Reporting Code for the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that the Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing) be approved.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Redditch Borough Council, like every Local Authority, is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. In line with that commitment the Council expects workers and others that it deals with, who have serious concerns about any aspect of the Council's work to come forward and voice those concerns.
- 3.2 This code makes it clear that workers can do so without fear of victimisation, subsequent discrimination or disadvantage. It is intended to encourage and enable workers to raise concerns or make allegations within the Council rather than overlooking a problem or "blowing the whistle" outside.
- 3.3 This code is in addition to the Council's Code of conduct, Local Disciplinary Procedure, Grievance Procedure, Harassment Policy, Complaints Process and other policies and procedures.

Legal Implications

- 3.4 The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, called the "Whistleblowers Act" provides protection for workers who disclose information that might otherwise be regarded as confidential. The Act provides that employers should not victimise any worker who blows the whistle in one of the ways set out in the legislation.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.5 The code will apply to concerns arising from any service undertaken by the Council.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.6 The code will ensure that an opportunity is available to all members of the community and staff to raise concerns regarding council activities.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The code ensures the council has a mechanism to address concerns and issues raised relating to service delivery.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Confidential Report Code (Whistleblowing)

AUTHORS OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering – Executive Director Finance and Resources
Email: j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881400