

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2015**

REPORT BY: **INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER**

SUBJECT: **WALES AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW OF THE COUNCILS
WHISTLEBLOWING ARRANGEMENTS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To report to committee the results of the Wales Audit Office review of the Councils whistleblowing arrangements.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Councils whistleblowing policy was reviewed and updated during 2014. It was approved by the Audit Committee in May 2014, presented to the Constitution Committee in July 2014 and became part of the Council Constitution shortly afterwards.

2.02 Wales Audit Office have conducted an Improvement Study across Wales to review whistleblowing arrangements. They have now issued a report on their review in Flintshire.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The review concludes that 'The Council has a satisfactory whistleblowing policy which it applies appropriately. The Council's whistleblowing policy demonstrates a clear commitment to handling whistleblowing concerns appropriately but with opportunities to make the policy more user-friendly in a few areas. The Council maintains its records securely and follows its policies and procedures appropriately when investigating whistleblowing concerns.

3.02 The report made no Proposals for Improvement, but does include suggestions for the Council to consider when it next refreshes the Policy.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The committee is requested to note the report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None arising from this report

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None arising from this report

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None arising from this report

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None arising from this report

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None arising from this report

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None arising from this report

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None arising from this report

12.00 APPENDICES

WAO Report – Review of Whistleblowing Arrangements

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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