

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by Chief Executive

**Audit & Performance Review Committee : 8 September 2010**

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**Subject: Activity on Whistleblowing Hotline to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the level of activity on the whistleblowing hotline.
- 1.2** This report was initially prepared for the inquorate meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) has had a Confidential Reporting Policy, or whistleblowing policy, since 2000.
- 2.2** A dedicated telephone hotline operated by Internal Audit to support the WDC Confidential Reporting Policy was launched on 6 March 2006 and was re-launched by way of a payslip message, global email and Intranet article on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Whistleblowing is taken to include contact with Internal Audit on specific cases through the use of the Council's whistleblowing telephone hotline, email, on-line form or traditional letter.
- 3.2** Since the launch of the whistleblowing hotline on 6 March 2006, there have been a total of 128 cases, covering a variety of subjects as summarised below:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>2009/10</u>
1	13	7	5	8
2	7	4	6	9
3	5	4	9	9
4	6	16	11	9
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	31	31	31	35
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- 3.3** These cases have been initially assessed by Internal Audit and then investigated or passed to departmental management for attention as appropriate. A summary of 9 cases for the 4th quarter of 2009/10 and details of the outcome are shown in Appendix A.

#### **4. People Implications**

- 4.1** This policy does have the potential to cause personnel issues, dependent on the circumstances or findings of any concern raised by an employee.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** There are no financial implications.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** There are risks to the Council in financial, legal, operational and reputation terms of not operating a Whistleblowing service. In order to meet the Corporate objective of Improving Accountability to Stakeholders this Council takes all reports of wrongdoing seriously and seeks to investigate all complaints where possible.

#### **7. Equalities Impact**

- 7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.

#### **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 8.1** Although usage remains relatively low, the Whistleblowing re-launch ensures all employees remain aware of ways to report concerns of wrongdoing within the Council.
- 8.2** The Committee is asked to note this report.

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 5 August 2010**

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<b>Appendix A:</b>	Summary of Activity on Whistleblowing Hotline from 1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2010
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<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
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