

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by Chief Executive

### Audit & Performance Review Committee – 20 September 2006

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#### Subject : Activity on Whistleblowing Hotline

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the level of activity on the whistleblowing hotline since its launch on 6 March 2006.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) has had a confidential reporting policy, or whistleblowing policy, since 2000.
- 2.2 At the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 8 March 2006, elected Members were advised that a dedicated telephone hotline operated by Internal Audit to support the WDC confidential reporting policy had been launched on 6 March 2006.

#### 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 20 cases which have covered a variety of subjects. These cases, which are summarised in Appendix A, have been initially assessed by Internal Audit and then investigated or passed to departmental management for attention as appropriate.

#### 4. Personnel Issues

- 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 The day to day operation of the hotline is absorbed into the existing Internal Audit workload.
- 5.2 The cost of operating the whistleblowing hotline is accommodated within the departmental budget provision.

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1 As demonstrated by the level of contacts to date, it is evident that there is some awareness of the whistleblowing facility within the Council.

## 7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to note these developments in relation to the Council's whistleblowing hotline.

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Tim Huntingford  
Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:** **Audit & Performance Review Committee –**  
14 September 2005  
8 March 2006  
21 June 2006

**Wards Affected:** All