

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Audit & Performance Review Committee – 20 September 2006

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

Wards Affected: All