

Audit & Scrutiny Committee

28 March 2024

Question Time

Written Question 1 from Mr P. Jagutpal, resident of the Borough:

Without disclosing any details of any individual case(s), please detail the process followed when a statutory officer and/or member is made aware of an instance of whistleblowing by a council, or ex-council, officer?

Response from the Chair of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee:

The council has a whistleblowing Policy as part of its internal employment policies. The Policy does not require whistleblowing to be only reported to a statutory officer and/or Members. The Policy lists a number of officers to whom such matters may be reported, and this includes the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer. The only Member under the Policy to whom a referral should be made under specific circumstances is the Chair of the Standards and Constitution Committee.

The Policy has a process that sets out what happens when a matter is raised under the Policy and that process is the same whether it is raised with a non-statutory officer or a statutory officer. In order to protect individuals and the council, initial enquiries will be made to decide whether an investigation is appropriate and, if so, what form it should take. Concerns or allegations which fall within the scope of specific procedures (for example, discrimination issues) will normally be referred for consideration under those procedures. Some concerns may be resolved by agreed action without the need for investigation.

Written Question 2 from Mr P. Jagutpal, resident of the Borough:

When Chairman Bridger presented the LGO Annual Report dated July 2022 to the A&S Committee in Feb 2023, and then later Full Council, was it factually true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief?

Response from the Chair of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee:

It was.