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Your Reference:

Our reference: RB/ge/230-441

26 May 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt

Consideration of Petition PE1488

I write in response to your correspondence of 19 March 2014 in relation to the role of the Council's Elected Members in the development and oversight of our Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy and the extent of their involvement in our procedures.

Elected Members initially approved the Council's Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Procedures in July 1999. The procedures were reviewed in 2008, 2012 and again in 2013, most recently in order to reflect the content and requirements of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013. The Council also has a Policy to Combat Fraud and Corruption, which was again agreed through the Committee process in 2012. Both of these policies and procedures are reviewed periodically and presented to Elected Members for consideration and approval as appropriate through the Committee process.

The Head of Human Resources & ICT is designated as the Council's Confidential Reporting Officer. Elected Members do not have an operational role in the functions of the policy.

The Council also has an Audit & Performance Review Committee, which comprises of 11 Elected Members. This Committee is remitted with ensuring that the highest standards of probity and public accountability are demonstrated and are presented with relevant matters to consider.

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I hope that this is of some assistance and urge you to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Roddy Burns