

For approval without discussion

Council Members' Whistleblowing Policy

Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

hefcw

Disclosable

Meeting
03/07/09

Agenda Item
18

Reference No
HEFCW/09/56

1 Issue

This paper provides for Council approval the Council Members' Whistleblowing Policy.

2 Corporate Planning Implications

HEFCW, a public body potentially subject to investigation by the Welsh Administration Ombudsman has, under its '*Corporate Governance and Compliance Arrangements*' Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan and Operational Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10:

developed procedures for dealing with complaints against the Council, allegations concerning institutions funded by HEFCW, and public interest disclosure.

3 Recommendation

The Council is invited to:

- i Approve the Council Members' Whistleblowing Policy attached at **Annex A.**

4 Timing for decisions

The Whistleblowing policy will be made available to members following approval from Council. It will also be provided to the Welsh Assembly Government for comment.

5 Council members' interests

No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

contact Bethan Owen (Tel 029 2068 2215; E-mail:
Bethan.Owen@hefcw.ac.uk)

7 Background

- 7.1 HEFCW has a public interest disclosure (“Whistleblowing”) policy in place for HEFCW staff but no equivalent policy for Council members.
- 7.2 In response to an internal audit recommendation to implement a whistleblowing policy for Council members, HEFCW officers drafted a policy based on the relevant policies for HEFCW and Welsh Assembly Government staff. The draft policy refers to processes that form part of the Welsh Assembly Government’s own whistleblowing procedures and assigns roles and responsibilities to certain members of the Council’s sponsor division. Accordingly several attempts have been made to invite comments on the draft procedures from the Council’s sponsor division but no responses have been forthcoming.
- 7.3 Rather than delaying any further and to ensure that an adequate whistleblowing policy is in place, Council member’s are asked to approve the attached policy. Following Council’s approval the policy will be sent to the sponsor division at the Welsh Assembly Government for their information and comment. If any comments are received that require amendment to the policy Council will be informed.

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications for the Council arising from this paper.

9 Communications implications

- 9.1 The Policy will be made available to Council Members via the Extranet.

10 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

- 10.1 This paper has no implications for age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or the Welsh language.

11 Risk Assessment

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
A Whistleblowing Policy not available for use by Council members	Issues that should be be dealt with via such a Policy are mis-handled or not raised by members