

Supplement to the agenda for

Audit and governance committee

Tuesday 16 June 2020

10.30 am

Online meeting

6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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**MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO
AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
16 JUNE 2020**

Councillor J Harrington, Hampton Ward

Question:

In order to have a good whistleblowing policy and practice, there should be an independent person or body (e.g. HR firm) that receives copies of all complaints for logging and also allows direct access for anyone wishing to whistleblow. The council will never have good practice or policy whilst whistleblowing is dealt with through our own organisation only. Would the committee consider looking into the options for amending the policy to reflect the need for an independent person or body?

Answer:

The need for independence is a point well made. Although whistleblowers can go outside of the council to report wrongdoing, our internal processes have to be effective.

An ideal independent body would be "Protect" the national whistleblowing charity that is already referenced as a source of advice and help in the policy. I have asked the monitoring officer to make enquiries about the services they might be able to offer.

