



## Report title: Standing Enquiries

To: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting Date: 5 March 2021

Public report: Public Report

From: Robert Parkin  
Monitoring Officer

Recommendations: The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:

A) Note the contents of this report; and

B) Request that a report be brought on a six-monthly basis which provides an update on whistleblowing, fraud, and complaints.

Voting arrangements: a simple majority of members present.

### 1. Purpose

1.1 The report sets out a proposal for how the Committee should consider updates on whistleblowing, fraud and complaints.

### 2. Background

2.1 At the November Audit and Governance Committee a member raised a query around how the Committee members should have sight of any claims of fraud, complaints and reports of whistleblowing at the Combined Authority and requested that this be reported to each Audit and Governance Committee meeting.

2.2 Following this meeting officers had discussions with the External and Internal Auditors who advised that the following areas were already covered in the updates provided to the Committee:

- Incidents of fraud at the Combined Authority are reported to the Committee via the Internal Auditors report received at each meeting, any incidents are also discussed with the Chair of the Committee who can then include it in Chair's Announcements at the start of each meeting if he deems necessary.

- Actual or pending claims or litigations against the organisation, any breaches of laws or regulations, any correspondence with regulators or authorities are provided in the annual confirmation as part of the accounts approval process unless there is something significant or in the public domain which would be discussed with the Chair and brought to the Committee's attention if necessary.

2.3 The Committee also receive a breakdown on the number of Complaints, FOI Requests, Whistleblowing as part of the Audit Committee's Annual Report, which is reviewed and approved at the start of each municipal year. Separately, the report on information governance (also on the agenda for this meeting) sets out a cadence for reporting on information governance matters.

2.4 This report proposes that an additional report updating members on whistleblowing matters, complaints, and fraud be brought to the committee on a six-monthly basis.

### 3. Financial Implications

3.1 None.

### 4. Legal Implications

4.1 None.

### 5. Background Papers

5.1 [Audit and Governance Minutes – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020](#)

5.2 [Audit and Governance Minutes – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021](#)