

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

21 October 2008

Report of the Chief Internal Auditor

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CODE

Summary

This report informs Members of the outcome of matters raised under the Confidential Reporting Code.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 From previous reports to this Committee Members will be aware of an incident where an investigation into the car mileage claims of an employee took place.

1.1.2 There have been no other matters raised to me through the Confidential Reporting Code.

1.2 Outcome of Investigation

1.2.1 The concern related to the mileage being claimed by an employee that appeared excessive. His duties involved inspection of street name plates, car parks and dealing with abandoned vehicles. There was a considerable part of his working day spent outside the office carrying out these inspections.

1.2.2 With the increase in the price of scrap metal the number of abandoned cars had been in decline as it had become economically viable to scrap them once more. This had reduced the workload of the individual and steps were in place to consider transferring him to another service to make more use of his time.

1.2.3 A concern was raised when it was noticed that the number of petrol receipts being supplied to support his mileage did not cover the mileage being claimed. An audit of claims was carried out and there were sufficient concerns to warrant further investigation.

1.2.4 An investigation over a four week period confirmed that the mileage claims submitted by the individual were false.

- 1.2.5 Evidence collected was handed over to the police and the CPS instigated a prosecution. At an initial plea hearing he admitted 3 offences of falsifying documents with 8 other charges being taken into consideration.
- 1.2.6 On 20 August 2008 he was sentenced at Sevenoaks Magistrates Court to a Community Sentence of 200 hours unpaid work with a 6 months supervision order with £60 costs for the CPS. In addition he was ordered to repay the Council £5,172.23 compensation at the rate of £140 per month.
- 1.2.7 In sentencing the Magistrate stated that he had deliberately committed the offence but the fact that he had made an early guilty plea had been taken into consideration.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 The full compensation sought by the Council was awarded and the first instalment has been received from the Court.

Background Papers

contact: David Buckley

Internal Audit Files

David Buckley
Chief Internal Auditor