### Whistleblowing

**blow the whistle** (slang) to expose or give information about illegal or underhand practices

South Cambridgeshire District Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. The Council wants to be alerted to any potential problems at the earliest opportunity and therefore encourages people who have serious concerns about any aspect of the Council's work, to come forward and voice them.

Available: Whistleblowing Policy | Whistleblowing flowchart | Whistleblowing concern form

# Do you have a suspicion?

- that something wrong, improper or dangerous is happening?
- that something unlawful might be going on?
- that something is against the Council's standing orders or practices?
- About potential health and safety risks, or pollution?

## Take a breath and tell someone

- It's never too late
- We need to know, to put it right
- You will not be harassed or victimised
- We'll keep it as confidential as possible
- Support is available

#### To report issues:

- don't investigate it yourself
- make immediate notes of relevant details
- tell your line manager in confidence, ideally in writing, including names, dates, places and reasons, if possible
- say who you are
- If you are not happy telling your line manager, contact <u>Internal Audit</u> you can
  do this via this <u>Whistleblowing concern form</u> on In-Site, which will send your
  concerns to the Internal Audit Manager, anonymously if desired.
- If you would prefer to talk to another senior officer, you should approach the HR Manager, 01954 713285
- If you want independent advice, you can call the independent charity Public Concern at Work on 0207 404 6609
- Keep a note yourself of what you said, to whom and when

#### Relax

### Disclosures made in good faith mean that:

- You've taken responsibility and done the right thing
- your concerns will be taken seriously
- you will be protected from reprisals or victimisation
- the matter will be dealt with quickly and appropriately

The Council also has an Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy, Codes of Conduct and other related policies, which would be used where appropriate. Full copies of all policy documents are available on In-Site.