

Title of Report:	Appointment of Raising Concerns Champion
Committee Report Submitted To:	Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	9th December 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Innovation and Transformation
Outcome	Improve Service Delivery
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services/Audit Risk and Governance Officer

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	No cost, development opportunity
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. N/A		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.1 Introduction

It is important for a public sector organisation to have effective arrangements for receiving concerns from the wider public and ensuring that they are properly considered and appropriately acted upon.

A raising concerns champion can be a source of advice and support for staff but, in addition, a key resource for connecting the organisation to service users and the wider public. Whilst this position is not remunerated it provides a development opportunity for the individuals involved.

1.2 Progress update

At the September Audit Committee members agreed the appointment of a raising concerns champion within the Council. This development opportunity was offered for staff to volunteer for the position. An advertisement was placed in the October Staff News Letter, with a closing date of 21st November.

The raising concerns champions for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is **Wayne Hall** and **Aileen Ruddy**.

The opportunity will remain open for other volunteers as ideally it would be beneficial to have a volunteer from each directorate.

1.3 Background

Wayne Hall works within the Environmental Services Directorate.

Aileen Ruddy works within the Internal Audit section and is a fully qualified accountant with over 18 years public sector audit experience, having previously worked in the NIAO.

1.4 Summary

Once Council has adopted the new Raising Concerns policy, training will be provided to the raising concerns champions.