

TO: GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
24TH JANUARY 2012

**ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY
BOROUGH TREASURER**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy for review and approval.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Governance and Audit Committee review and approve the attached Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy at Appendix A.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy is up to date and consistent with the current Financial Regulations.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There is no alternative.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 In 2011 the National Fraud Authority estimated that fraud against Councils exceeds more than £2bn per year. Local authorities have a responsibility to ensure that they have adequate anti-fraud and corruption procedures. The Council has developed its counter fraud framework which is set out in the Counter Fraud Strategy. This draws together the measures in place for countering fraud including the Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Disciplinary, Whistle Blowing and Benefit Fraud Policies and the Financial Regulations. The Strategy sets out time frames for review of individual elements of the framework to ensure these are updated on a regular basis and remain fit for purpose.
- 5.2 In line with the Strategy, the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy is due for review and has now been revised to ensure it is up to date and consistent with the latest Financial Regulations. The Policy is now attached at Appendix A for review and approval.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Nothing to add to the report.

Borough Treasurer

Unrestricted

- 6.2 As a member of the Corporate Governance Working Group the Borough Treasurer was involved in updating the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not applicable.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The Audit Commission's 2010/11 survey of frauds in local authorities identified a 37% increase in detected fraud losses with the number of fraud cases also increasing. It is vital for the Council to have robust and up to date policies in place to respond to the increased risk of fraud and corruption.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Governance Working Group and the Corporate Management Team.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 The revised Policy was reviewed at the Governance Working Group on 5th December and suggested amendments made before being reviewed by the Corporate Management Team on 21st December 2011.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Counter Fraud Strategy

Contact for further information

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