

Audit Committee – 25th October 2007

10. Anti Fraud & Corruption and Whistleblowing Policies

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Purpose of the Report

To obtain endorsement from members for the amendments to the Council's Anti Fraud and Corruption and Whistleblowing Policies.

Recommendations

That the Audit Committee consider the changes to the Anti Fraud and Corruption and Whistleblowing Policies, recommending them for adoption to Full Council.

Background

The two policies were last reviewed in April 2007 in response to an Audit Commission recommendation that they should be reviewed and maintained on a regular basis. The Commission recognise the importance of the documents in relation to demonstrating effective governance arrangements. As such they review them for accuracy, currency and compliance as part of the Council's CPA assessment.

Anti Fraud and Corruption

This document clearly sets out the Council's zero tolerance of fraud and corruption. It details the roles and responsibilities of both staff and members in combating fraud and corruption. It also identifies the key policies, procedures and systems in place to identify and react to potential cases of fraud and corruption.

The attached document (pages 91-97) has very few changes. Those that have been made relate to updated guidance that is available and job title changes. The only significant inclusion is that any Benefit related fraud should be reported to the Benefit Fraud Investigation Team. To assist members I have highlighted changes/additions in ***Bold Italic***.

Whistleblowing

This document recognises the essential role staff may play in identifying if things are going wrong in the Council. It outlines the process that staff can follow to raise serious concerns without the fear of reprisal.

The attached document (pages 99-104) has very few changes; the main changes are to update job titles. The only significant change is to clarify why there may be a need to compensate an employee who 'blows the whistle'. Again I have highlighted changes/additions in ***Bold Italic***.

Financial Implications

None.

Background Papers: Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy, Whistleblowing Policy
