

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

25 September 2012

Counter Fraud Strategy

Report of the Strategic Director for Resources

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| STRATEGIC AIM: | All |
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek Committee approval for the Council's revised counter fraud arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee recommends to Council the approval of the Counter Fraud Strategy shown at Appendix A

2.2 That the Committee recommends to Council the approval of the Whistle Blowing Policy shown at Appendix B.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To ensure that up to date policies and procedures are in place in respect of counter fraud arrangements.

4. UPDATED POSITION

4.1 The Counter Fraud Strategy (**Appendix A**) and Whistle Blowing Policy (**Appendix B**) have been reviewed and updated by the Head of Internal Audit in line with best practice.

4.2 **Corporate Counter Fraud Strategy** - The key elements of the strategy are:

- prevention;
- detection;
- investigation;
- retribution and restitution; and
- use of deterrents.

There are a number of actions to be taken against each of these elements and these are summarised in Appendix 1 to the Strategy.

Appendix 3 to the Strategy contains the Fraud Response plan which sets out in detail how the council will respond to allegations of fraud or corruption and is intended to ensure a consistent and effectively managed process.

4.3 **Whistle Blowing Policy** - This policy sets out how someone should raise a concern and covers employees, contractors and members of the public. The policy encourages concerns to be raised in the appropriate manner but also sets out the consequences of making untrue malicious allegations.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

| RISK | IMPACT | COMMENTS |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| Time | Low | The revised arrangements can be implemented quickly and training delivered appropriately. |
| Viability | Low | There are no direct implications within this report |
| Finance | Medium | There are no direct implications within this report but there are clear financial implications for not having robust policies and procedures in place in respect of anti fraud. |
| Profile | Medium | Any instances of fraud would be likely to attract adverse publicity |
| Equality and Diversity | Low | Initial Equality Impact Assessment completed, there are no particular issues in this area. |

Background Papers

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.