

ANTI FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY (Report by the Audit Manager)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has in place a number of policies and procedures that deal with the treatment of reported or discovered fraud and corruption. It does not however have in place a strategy document that details its overall approach towards the tackling of fraud, corruption and theft. This report introduces such a strategy.

2. THE STRATEGY

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix A is a proposed Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy document.
- 2.2 The Strategy, which will be an accessible public document, contains:
- a statement that sets out the Council's attitude and commitment towards preventing fraud, corruption and theft.
 - details of the policies and procedures in place for tackling fraud, corruption and theft and how they will be used
 - information regarding the publicity of the Strategy
 - the process to be followed for reviewing the Strategy

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Council is already committed towards reducing fraud, corruption and theft. The Strategy document explains how that commitment will be transferred into positive actions.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Employment Liaison Advisory Group, Employment Panel and Standards Committee are recommended to forward any comments on the draft strategy to the Cabinet for consideration; and
- 4.2 The Cabinet are recommended to
- a) approve the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, having regard to any comments forthcoming from the consultation referred to in paragraph 4.1; and
 - b) request that action is taken to publicise the Strategy both internally and externally.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Council's Codes of Conduct for Members & Employees
The Council's Whistleblowing Policy & Procedure
The Council's Housing and Council Tax Benefits Anti-Fraud Strategy
The Council's Housing and Council Tax Benefit Prosecution Policy
The Council's Disciplinary Procedures