



<b>REPORT OF:</b>	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
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<b>TO:</b>	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
<b>DATE:</b>	2 FEBRUARY 2004

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>		<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	ALL
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	ANTI FRAUD & CORRUPTION
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:</b>	TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY AND COMMENT ON ITS WHISTLE-BLOWING POLICY
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Standards Committee approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and policy set out in leaflet form in Annex 1.</li> <li>2. The Standards Committee comment upon the Council's "whistle blowing" policy as set out in Annex 2.</li> </ol>	

## Background

1. The Council's constitution – Article 9.03 (i) – makes the Standards Committee responsible for “ *(the) overview of the Council's anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.*” and the Council has delegated to the Committee the function of amending and revising that policy (page 41 of the Constitution). It is also part of the Committees function to promote and maintain high standards of conduct within the Council.

## Factors for Consideration

2. The Council promotes good conduct by Members, Officers and Council Agents in many ways. These include the Member/Officer Protocol, Terms and Conditions of Employment, our Dignity at Work policy and service specific rules and regulations in our many work areas such as the administration of Housing and Council Tax benefit.
3. There are 2 documents attached for Standards Committee overview, shown overleaf:

<b>Document</b>	<b>Annex</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>How publicised?</b>
Policy Statement leaflet	1	Brief guidance of our over all approach.  In readily accessible format	✓ Each new version to be distributed to all staff and Members ✓ Included in new staff induction pack ✓ On Web Site ✓ Each new version distributed to Help Shops, Libraries etc
Whistle-Blowing Policy	2	Details of RBBC's policy, integral to the successful implementation of our anti-fraud approach.	✓ On Web Site / Intranet

*(In addition to these there is specific guidance to managers and staff on "Fraud and Corruption.")*

### **Timescales**

4. The documents are revised and updated on average every year. There has been a slight delay in publication this time because it was considered appropriate to wait until the new Monitoring Officer assumed her post.
5. Subject to comments by the Standards Committee it is proposed to reissue the documentation by Easter.

### **Resource Implications**

6. Printing and publication costs can be met from existing resources.

### **Conclusions**

7. The Council takes fraud and corruption seriously and it is important to have regularly updated documentation in place.
8. The Standards Committee is requested to approve the document set out in Annex1 and comment upon the document in Annex2.

Background Papers: Attached as Annexes