



REPORT OF:	Head of Finance and Community Services
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TO:	Standards Committee
DATE:	27 th April 2011

WARD (S) AFFECTED:	All
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SUBJECT:	Annual review of the Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy and Action Plan
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RECOMMENDATION:

To note the arrangements in place to enable the Committee to comply with its Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption responsibilities under the Committee's terms of reference in the Constitution.

SUMMARY:

The report provides an update on a presentation to the Committee in 2009 about arrangements to write and implement a Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy during 2010-2011 to ensure that the Committee is satisfied that it is enabled to comply with its responsibilities under its terms of reference in the Constitution. The report details the relevant terms of reference and in Annex 1 and sets out progress on actions.

STATUTORY POWERS

1. There is no statutory requirement to write or review a Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy or review its implementation arrangements. However, under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure the proper administration of its financial functions and a strategy to manage incidents of fraud and corruption are fundamental to this duty.

THE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION

2. Under its Terms of Reference Part 2 (Article 9.03(a)) in the Constitution, the Standards Committee is responsible for 'The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct within the Council' and is also responsible for the 'Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy' (Article 9.03 (g)).

Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy Update 2010/11

3. At its meeting on 11th November 2009, the Committee received a presentation which explained the need for the existing Corporate Anti Fraud Strategy to be rewritten and updated. The presentation indicated some proposed arrangements for the implementation of a new Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy.
- 3.1 The purpose of the report now before the Committee is to provide an update on the progress made on the arrangements to write and implement a Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy.
- 3.2 The new Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy and its contingent protocols and action plans was approved by the Executive Committee on May 27th 2010.
- 3.3 Appendix 3 of the Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy outlines the necessary actions and timetable for implementing the Policy. This appendix is attached to this report as Annex 1 (Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Action Plan). The 'status' column in the Annex indicates progress to date on the arrangements to implement the Policy.
- 3.4 Members will see from the action plan in the Annex that good progress has been made to date, although some tasks have taken longer than anticipated.
- 3.5 The Government have recently announced that they plan to tackle benefit fraud by removing it from Local Authority responsibility and returning it to Central Government responsibility in 2013. This does not negate the necessity to retain an anti fraud and anti corruption role within the Council but once full details are known it will require a review of the Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy, protocols and plans to ensure that they are compliant with any revised arrangements.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. The 2009-2012 Corporate Plan theme "A Council Fit for the Future" includes a commitment to the Council displaying 'fitness for purpose' and as the Council is a multi million pound business, anti fraud and anti corruption arrangements are key to ensuring this. The consultation draft of the Corporate Plan 2011-2015 reflects this commitment in a slightly different way, containing an aim to provide 'Better For Less' and to 'maintain a high level of service by ensuring that we look at ways of being more efficient and effective, maximise the value we receive from our assets and by realising our potential income'.

CONSULTATION

5. The Executive Member for Finance and the Chief Finance Officer to the Council are consulted on an ongoing basis regarding significant issues in relation to Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption issues.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The gross anti fraud budget for 2010-11 is £220,105 but this is offset by government grant of £204,711, leaving a net cost of £15,394.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no equalities implications arising out of this report.
- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on the Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy and there were no issues.

Background Papers:

The Corporate Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy.