

Audit and Governance Committee

15 February 2010

Report of the Assistant Director of Resources (Customer Service and Governance)

Update on Counter Fraud Policies

Summary

- 1 The purpose of the report is to seek members' views on the content of the counter fraud and corruption policy and the counter fraud and corruption prosecution policy.

Background

- 2 In accordance with best practice, the council maintains policies on countering fraud and corruption and prosecuting in cases where fraud is proven. Approval of these policies is the responsibility of the Executive Member for Corporate Services. However, the Audit and Governance Committee has a responsibility for overseeing counter fraud work as a part of the council's governance framework, and specifically for monitoring these policies.
- 3 The policies were last updated in April 2008. Minor changes are now required to update them, and to take into account changes to service arrangements for example the transfer of counter fraud services to Veritau Ltd.

Counter Fraud Policies

- 4 The counter fraud and corruption policy and fraud and corruption prosecution policy are included at Annex 1 and 2. Proposed changes to the policies are shown in the annexes. The changes are minor, and reflect changes to service arrangements, job titles and updates to other information and policies. The committee's view about the proposed changes and overall content of the policies is sought, prior to them being referred to the Executive Member for Corporate Services for approval.

Consultation

- 5 Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Options

- 6 Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Analysis

- 7 Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Corporate Priorities

- 8 This report contributes to the Council's overall aims and priorities by helping to ensure probity, integrity and honesty in everything we do. In doing so it contributes to the corporate objective of making the Council an Effective Organisation.

Implications

- 9 There are no implications to this report in relation to:

- **Finance**
- **Human Resources (HR)**
- **Equalities**
- **Legal**
- **Crime and Disorder**
- **Information Technology (IT)**
- **Property**

Risk Management Assessment

- 10 The council will fail to comply with proper practice if it fails to maintain up to date counter fraud and corruption policies and procedures.

Recommendations

- 11 Members are asked to:

- comment on the proposed changes to the council's counter fraud and corruption policy and fraud and corruption prosecution policy.

Reason

To ensure counter fraud procedures and policies are up to date, as part of their responsibility for overseeing the council's overall governance framework.

Contact Details

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Report Approved



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Specialist Implications Officers

Not applicable

Wards Affected: Not applicable

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex 1 – Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy
Annex 2 – Fraud and Corruption Prosecution Policy