

Agenda item No. 8

Title: **Anti- Fraud and Corruption Strategy**

Portfolio holder: Cllr Carbin – Finance & Policy Portfolio Holder

Reporting officer: Ian Jamieson – Head of Finance

Purpose

To present the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.

Background

The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy has been in operation for a number of years. It makes clear to Councillors, employees, customers, suppliers and others the Council's firm stance against fraud and corruption. The strategy is supported by a specific detailed Housing Benefit Fraud Strategy and the Council's Whistle-blowing Policy.

This report updates the Anti-Fraud and Corruption strategy. There are no significant changes to the strategy. Further work is required to review the Housing Benefit Fraud strategy and this will be reported at the September meeting of the Audit Committee.

Key Issues

The Council:

Is committed to put in place measures to prevent, deter and detect fraud.

will promptly investigate all reported suspicions of fraud

encourages people to report suspicions of fraud

will set up and maintain stringent controls within systems and procedures

will take appropriate steps to recover all losses incurred

Effect on strategies and codes

These are contained in the strategy.

Risk management implications

These are contained in the strategy.

Finance and performance implications

These are contained in the strategy.

Legal and human rights implications

There are no direct legal or human rights implications

Next steps

The Housing Benefit Strategy will be updated and reported to the Audit Committee in September. This will be followed by a comprehensive launch to communicate to all Councillors, employees, customers and major suppliers.

This will be achieved through: team briefing, service manager meeting, corporate management team, publication on the on the Council's website, new Member induction, contacting existing major suppliers, inclusion in all new contracts and the work of the Audit Committee.

Recommendations

The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy is approved.

Further work is requested to review the Housing Benefit Fraud strategy with a report to the next Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee suggests ways to raise awareness and promote the strategy.

Background Papers: Final Accounts Working Papers – Room 33

 Plain English guidance given

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