

PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5 JUNE 2006

CABINET - 21 JUNE 2006

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ANTI – FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY – UPDATE TO THE CONSTITUTION

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RECENT REFERENCES:

ST48 – Anti - Fraud And Corruption Policy - Standards Committee – 6 February 2006)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In following best practice (CIPFA/SOLACE guidance on Corporate Governance – issued 2001) and managing its responsibilities the Council is determined to protect itself against fraud and corruption both from within the Council and from external sources. The Council has in place a Constitution, which sets out the codes of Conduct for both Members and Employees; a Whistle Blowing Policy; and Financial Procedure Rules, which provide clarity about accountabilities of Members, Directors and staff. The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy brings together these key elements. The Council is committed to an effective Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy designed to:

- Ensure prevention.
- Facilitate detection and
- Identify a clear pathway for investigation and remedial action.

The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy was last revised in 2003.

An earlier draft of an updated Policy was considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 9 February 2006 (Report ST48 refers). At that meeting a number of detailed drafting improvements were suggested and these have been incorporated in the latest draft contained in Appendix 1. The Standards Committee also suggested that changes to the structure of the document be made so that the Policies appeared before the Response Plan – thereby giving greater emphasis to the policies. This has also been addressed in the latest draft.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That it be recommended to Cabinet and Council that the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy be approved as a Local Protocol in Part 5 of the Constitution.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy is part of the Corporate Framework that guides the Council's effective management.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no direct implications arising from the Policy.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.