

REPORT FOR DECISION

MEETING: AUDIT COMMITTEE
CORPORATE JCC
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
CABINET
COUNCIL

DATE: 15 DECEMBER, 2014
8 JANUARY, 2015
13 JANUARY, 2015
3 FEBRUARY, 2015
4 FEBRUARY, 2015
1 APRIL, 2015

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION
STRATEGY INCLUDING THE WHISTLEBLOWING
POLICY

REPORT FROM: HEAD OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

CONTACT OFFICER: ANDREW BALDWIN

TYPE OF DECISION: Non key.

**FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION/STATUS:** This paper is within the public domain.

SUMMARY: To refresh the anti-fraud and corruption strategy in order to take account of changes in department and post titles and the impact of the 2013 Whistleblowing Code of Practice.

**OPTIONS &
RECOMMENDED OPTION** Members may accept or reject the report. It is recommended that Members accept the report to ensure that the Council complies with all relevant legislation and regulations and provides up to date information to elected members and employees.

IMPLICATIONS:

**Corporate Aims/Policy
Framework:** Yes

Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Statement by the Assistant Director of Resources & Regulation (Finance & Efficiency):

The key to prevention of fraud and corruption is the creation of a sound control environment with well-established and accepted systems and effective controls. This is the approach adopted at Bury, where appropriate systems and controls are established and maintained by management. Members and officers alike support the anti-fraud and corruption culture throughout the Council.

Equality/Diversity implications:

None

Considered by Monitoring Officer:

Yes

Are there any legal implications?

These are set out in detail in the Strategy attached to this report.

Staffing/ICT/Property:

There are no direct resource implications arising from the report.

Wards Affected:

The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy impacts on all of the Council's wards and Township Forums.

Scrutiny Interest:

None.

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR: Resources & Regulation

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
	Chair		
Scrutiny	Cabinet	Committee	Council
13/01/2015	04/02/2015	Audit: 15/12/14; Standards: 03/02/2015	01/04/2015

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy sets out the various measures that have been put in place across the Council in order to combat fraud and corruption and brings these together in one document.

- 1.2 The revised document is attached to this report.
- 1.3 The specific sections and measures within the document include:
- Part One - General Policy and Strategy
 - Part Two - Whistleblowing Policy
 - Part Three - Housing benefit / Council Tax Benefit Fraud Prosecution Policy
 - Part Four - Standards of Conduct
 - Part Five - Guidance for Members and Officers on how to report suspected fraud and corruption within outside bodies
 - Part Six - Local Code of Corporate Governance
 - Part Seven - Anti-Money Laundering Guidance
 - Part Eight - Anti-Bribery Policy
- 1.4 The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy was last presented to Audit Committee in December 2013 to take account of the requirement of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 which introduced important changes to the Whistleblowing law which came into force on 25th June 2013.
- 1.5 Since then a number of further changes have occurred that require the Strategy to be further updated.

2.0 THE CHANGES

- 2.1 The changes that have since occurred, and have been factored into the revised strategy, include:
- Updated post and department titles and names throughout - replacing Chief Internal Auditor with Head of Financial Management and replacing Chief Executive's department with department of Resources and Regulation;
 - Reference to the 2011 Localism Act and the 2011 Accounts and Audit Regulations within Part One - Policy and Strategy;
 - Update of the Part Two - Whistleblowing Policy as a result of the publication of the Whistleblowing Code of Practice, which was produced by Public Concern at Work in 2013;
 - Reference to Audit Commission replaced by KPMG within Part Two - Whistleblowing Policy;
 - Update of Part Eight - Anti Bribery Policy in respect of public contracts.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy has been updated to take account of the changes highlighted and approval is sought for the revised Strategy to be published and publicised throughout the Council.

List of Background Papers:-

Whistleblowing Code of Practice, Public Concern at Work, 2013

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