

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 6 MAY 2014 FROM THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE PANEL – AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 29 APRIL 2014

ARC106: **CABINET REPORT: ANTI-FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY, WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY AND THE FRAUD RESPONSE PLAN**

The Audit Manager presented the report and reminded the Committee that the Council had a suite of anti-fraud documents in place for a number of years, with amendments being made to take account of new legislation, in particular the Bribery Act in 2010. A full review of the documents had now taken place to ensure that they were consistent, up-to-date and fit for purpose.

The main changes to the documents were outlined as detailed in section 2 of the report, as set out below:

- Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy.
- Whistleblowing Policy and Fraud Response Plan.

The Committee was informed that there were no direct financial implications, but indirectly, if the anti-fraud documents were not effective, there could be repercussions as frauds were not prevented or detected.

The Audit Manager explained that the documents must be appropriately linked to the Council's Disciplinary Procedures, as any disciplinary hearing must be conducted in a manner that was consistent with these procedures. It was highlighted that any internal investigation was both consistently carried out and was fair to any employee being investigated.

Councillor Cousins enquired if the fraud documents were audited by any other employees other than the Audit Manager. In response, the Audit Manager advised that the documents were checked by the following officers:

- Deputy Chief Executive.
- Chief Financial Officer.
- Monitoring Officer.
- Personnel Services Manager.

The checking process undertaken by the above officers proved beneficial to ensure that the relevant documents were accurate and fit for purpose.

In response to questions and comments from Councillor Humphrey on paragraphs 5.2 and 4.3, the Audit Manager explained that the responsibility had moved from the Deputy Chief Executive to the Council's Section 151 Officer. The Council's Section 151 Officer was responsible for ensuring that the Council's accounts were properly kept. The Audit Manager undertook to look at amending the wording in the relevant paragraphs.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet recommends that Council agree the proposed Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy, Fraud Response Plan and Whistleblowing Policy.