

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Corporate Governance Committee
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Finance Project Officer

26 September 2007

ANTI-THEFT FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is for Corporate Governance Committee to review and agree an updated Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy for the Council.

Background

2. The Council's Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy was adopted in January 1998, in satisfaction of a request by the then Audit Panel. The policy is appended to the Officers' Code of Conduct in the Council's Constitution.
3. Following a recent internal audit, the Human Resources Manager reviewed staff related policy documents. The Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy did not appear to have been updated since January 1998, although some changes had been made since then, for example to include the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the Leader of the Council as people with whom Members could raise concerns.

Considerations

4. The Council's Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy needed updating to reflect the authority's new political arrangements and management structure, as well as developments in various procedures, in particular regarding housing or council tax benefit fraud. The draft revised Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy is attached as **Appendix A**.
5. The version of the Policy appended to the Officers' Code of Conduct includes as people with whom Members may raise concerns, the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the Leader of the Council. However, it is considered that the most appropriate people are the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of Corporate Governance Committee; the draft revised policy has been amended to reflect this. As the policy is included in the Council's Constitution, this amendment will have to be approved by the Constitution Review Working Party.

Options

6. In reviewing the draft revised Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy, the Committee could suggest further improvements or enhancements.

Implications

7.

Financial, Legal, Staffing	There are no immediate financial or legal implications resulting from this report.
	The updated policy will reflect the authority's political arrangements and management structure.

Risk Management	The updated policy will ensure that the Council has a policy that is effective.
Equal Opportunities	The policy has no inherent equal opportunities implications.

Consultations

8. The following managers were consulted and their valuable contributions are appreciated:
- (a) Adrian Burns [Head of Accountancy];
 - (b) Lee Phanco [Head of Revenues];
 - (c) Susan Gardner Craig [Human Resources Manager];
 - (d) Steve Rayment [Head of ICT];
 - (e) Catriona Dunnett [Principal Solicitor];
 - (f) Richard May [Democratic Services Manager].

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

9.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Affordable Homes</td> <td rowspan="7">The proposals in this report contribute to the Council's corporate governance responsibilities.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Customer Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northstowe and other growth areas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quality, Accessible Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Life</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainability</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partnership</td> </tr> </table>	Affordable Homes	The proposals in this report contribute to the Council's corporate governance responsibilities.	Customer Service	Northstowe and other growth areas	Quality, Accessible Services	Village Life	Sustainability	Partnership
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Conclusions/Summary

10. The Council's Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy needed to be reviewed and updated. The draft revised policy reflects the authority's new political arrangements and management structure, as well as developments in various procedures.

Recommendations

11. The Committee is recommended to:
- (a) approve the proposed revised Anti-Theft Fraud and Corruption Policy;
 - (b) recommend to Constitution Review Working Party, the changed list of people with whom Members may raise concerns (paragraph 5 above refers).

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None unpublished

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