

Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Shared Assurance	Audit Committee	15 March 2012

## ANTI FRAUD & CORRUPTION POLICIES

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To seek members' approval of the following documents which have recently been revised and updated:
- Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy
  - Anti-Fraud Response Plan

### RECOMMENDATION

- 2 That members approve the documents appended to this report

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 3 As a key element of its corporate governance framework the Council is required to maintain up to date policies for the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and corruption
- 4 Due to recent legislative developments and organisational changes it has become necessary to revise and re-issue the documents that are attached as appendices to this report

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5 The report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			√

## **BACKGROUND**

- 6 As a keeper of the public purse the Council has both a legal and moral duty to adopt a zero tolerance stance in relation to fraud and corruption. This is achieved by maintaining and publicising robust policies in this area and by continuously raising awareness of them amongst Members and Officers.
- 7 The Audit Committee has responsibility for overseeing the Council's governance arrangements and has previously approved a Local Code of Corporate Governance which refers to a range of policies and procedures for the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and corruption. These include:
- Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy
  - Codes of Conduct for Members and Officers
  - Whistle Blowing Procedure
  - Anti-Money Laundering Procedure
  - Guidance to staff on surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
  - Disciplinary Policy
  - Anti-Fraud Response Plan
- 8 The Council does not operate in a vacuum and so these policies need to be reviewed and refreshed on a regular basis to ensure that they are up to date and reflect the latest regulatory requirements. For these reasons it has now become necessary to revise the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy and the Anti-Fraud Response Plan.

## **ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

- 9 This is an umbrella document which explains the range of situations where fraud or corruption could arise and advises who suspicions should be reported to in each case. It also acts as a signpost to other procedures such as those listed above.

## **ANTI-FRAUD RESPONSE PLAN**

- 10 This document explains how and by whom suspected cases of fraud or corruption will be investigated.

## **PUBLICITY & AWARENESS**

- 11 The above documents have been revised to reflect recent organisational changes such as the combining of the Chief Executive and Director of Transformation roles and the establishment of a Shared Assurance Service with South Ribble Borough Council, which incorporates Internal Audit.
- 12 There is also now a need to re-enforce the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010 within the Council's policies.
- 13 In order to raise awareness of these documents and ethical standards generally, both Officers and Members have recently been invited to participate in an on-line exercise on the Loop and In the Know.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

- 14 This report has no implications for specific Services. The matters raised in the report are cross cutting and impact upon the authority as a whole

GARRY BARCLAY  
HEAD OF SHARED ASSURANCE

<b>Background Papers</b>			
<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. Ant-Fraud Response Plan.	February 2012	Shared Assurance Services	Civic Centre Leyland

  

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
Clare Ware	01257 515470 01772 625249	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2012	Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy 2012 Anti-Fraud Response Plan 2012