

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation & Improvement)	Audit Committee	19/03/08

## ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To seek the Audit Committee's approval of the revised Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy (AFCS).

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2 That the new AFCS is approved

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 3 The AFCS has been updated to address recommendations made by the Audit Commission in the Use of Resources assessment and other developments. This report explains the changes that have been made to the AFCS and the reason for them.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 4 This report relates to the following strategic objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Develop local solutions to climate change	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance		Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	✓

### BACKGROUND

- 5 The AFCS is not a new document but has been developed and amended over many years in response to new regulations, organisational changes or improvements in accepted best practice.
- 6 It is now timely to "refresh" the AFCS to accommodate a number of developments.

## **PURPOSE OF THE ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

- 7 The Strategy establishes the Council's determination to ensure that serious concerns are properly raised and addressed. It sets out the Council's specific policies towards the prevention, detection, notification and investigation of fraud and corruption and summarises the responsibilities of members, managers and officers in this respect.
- 8 The Strategy covers all allegations of fraud or corruption committed against the Council whether they are perpetrated by members, officers or the general public; for example benefit fraud.
- 9 It gives specific advice and guidance to officers of the Council who undertake or have an interest in investigations. It aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all interested parties, including the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, Corporate Director Of Human Resources, other Directors and external agencies including the Police.
- 10 This "refresh" the AFCS accommodates a number of developments, each of which are explained below.

## **FRAUD RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 11 In their Use of Resources report the Audit Commission requested the Council to "Further develop proactive counter fraud and corruption work, determined by a formal risk assessment". In response to this a Fraud & Corruption Risk Register has now been compiled which identifies specific fraud risks in individual Directorates. We are now working with Directors to put mitigation strategies in place to minimise the threat of fraud in their service areas.
- 12 We are also aiming to publish regular fraud bulletins on the Intranet to bring any current fraud issues or scams to the attention of staff and provide advice and guidance to raise the overall awareness of fraud generally.

## **"WHISTLE-BLOWING"**

- 13 The Council recently launched a Whistle Blowing Policy (WBP), which encourages staff and stakeholders to raise any matter of concern and explains who should be informed in particular circumstances. The WBP gives clear instructions regarding how to report suspected fraud or corruption and as such now forms an important part of the Council's AFCS.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

- 14 The AFCS has also been updated to reflect the new corporate organisational structure and changes in responsibility.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT**

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

GARY HALL  
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION & IMPROVEMENT

<b>Background Papers</b>			
<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Whistle Blowing Policy	2006	FINANCE	UNION ST OFFICES

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
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