

2. ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY (EWJ/A.111)

Proposal

1 This report proposes the adoption of an Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy.

2 RECOMMENDATION:

1 **That the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy as set out in Annexe 1 to the report be adopted.**

2. **That the employment contracts of all staff be amended to include reference to the Policy in the Employees Code of Conduct replacing Appendix 1 of the Code.**

Policy/Legal Background

3 The Authority is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for.

4 The Audit Commission recommend that all local authorities should adopt a corporate Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy.

5 This work contributes to achieving Key Corporate Action K1: ensuring value for money, sustainability and high standards of corporate governance in the way we deliver services.

Key Issues

6 The policy has been developed to provide a comprehensive approach to the way the Authority will deal with fraud and corruption. It supports an anti fraud culture and gives guidance on the prevention, detection and investigation of incidents of fraud and financial irregularities.

7 The CIPFA Framework for Delivering Good Governance 2007 defines the principles that should underpin the governance of local government bodies and provides a structure to help authorities review their existing governance arrangements.

8 The Authority is required to publish an annual governance statement in accordance with the Framework to meet the statutory requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006. This replaces previous year's Statement of Internal Controls.

9 Implementation of the policy, together with a Confidential Reporting Policy, will help to strengthen the Authority's corporate governance and will contribute to the Authority's compliance with the principles and requirements of good governance set out in the CIPFA Framework.

10. The policy applies to all staff and Members. Adoption of the Policy will mean incorporation within the terms and conditions of all staff and replaces the Appendix to the Employees Code of Conduct entitled "Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement".

APPENDIX

Background

1 See main report.

Resources

2 The adoption of the policy will not have any significant resource implications.

Risk Management

3 The Authority has comprehensive financial practices and procedures to minimise the risk of fraud and corruption and the expectation is that Members and officers will ensure adherence to these practices and procedures. The policy supports these internal controls.

Human Rights, Equalities, Health & Safety

4 There are no issues that arise out of the proposal.

Consultees

5 The Chief Executive, Directors, Chief Finance Officer, Heads of Service, Unison and Staff Committee have been consulted on the draft policy.

Enclosures

6 Annex 1 – Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

7 None

Report Author

8 Eugene Judge Democratic Services Manager.

Publication date

9 15 May 2008.