

Bolton Council

Report to: Executive

Date: 27th April 2009

Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Report No:

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Report Title: **Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy**

**Confidential /
Non Confidential:**

(Non-Confidential) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

To allow the Executive to consider the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Fraud Response Plan and comment on them.

Recommendations:

The Executive is asked to approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Fraud Response Plan attached to this report.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

Anti-Fraud Policy – January 2008
CPA UoR Feedback
IPF Advisory Network.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council originally agreed an Anti-Fraud Statement in 1998 along with a range of supporting processes and codes. The strategy was last updated in January 2008

The Anti-Fraud Policy is a key cornerstone of the Council's governance arrangements and it is important that it is kept up to date. The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) highlights this area as fundamental to the good governance of an authority and recommends regular reviews. It is with this in mind, and the need to keep up with the constant changes in the way the organisation works that a review of the anti-fraud strategy has been undertaken.

2. REVIEW PROCESS:

In reviewing the existing Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy a variety of research was undertaken:

- Legislation and regulation
- Best practice
- Professional guidance and advice
- Greater Manchester Anti-Fraud Group
- Greater Manchester Chief Internal Auditors Group.
- Experience of using the existing policy
- CPA and CAA

The research confirms the need to produce one overarching document which brings together a policy statement on the issue with a reminder of roles and responsibilities, and signposts to other more detailed procedures.

Based upon the above research revised strategy has been brought together and is attached as an appendix to this report. There are no fundamental changes to the existing policy but the document now takes on board some revised policies relating to ICT. The revision and re launch does, however, demonstrate the Council's commitment to dealing with fraud and corruption in a clear and firm way.

In addition to the strategy a Fraud Response Plan has been produced, this is a guide to aid managers when fraud or corruption is suspected. This should ensure that all issues are investigated properly and in a consistent way.

The above documents have been endorsed by Audit Committee and the Executive Member for Corporate Resources.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to approve the revised Anti-Fraud Strategy and Fraud Response Plan attached to this report.