

To: Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 24th November 2009

Item No:

Title of Report:

Avoiding Fraud and Corruption Policy.

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report:

1. To report to Members the revised Avoiding Fraud and Corruption Policy

Key Decision: No

Board member: Councillor Bob Price

Scrutiny Responsibility: Value & Performance

Ward(s) affected: None

Report Approved by: Lindsay Cane, Legal & Democratic Services

Policy Framework: Financial stability

Recommendation(s): Members are asked to note the report and endorse the Avoiding Fraud and Corruption Policy.

Background

1. To report to Members the revised Avoiding Fraud and Corruption Policy.

The Council is committed to eliminating all forms of fraud, corruption and bribery and to protecting public funds. Minimising losses to fraud is an essential part of ensuring that all of the Council's resources are used for the purpose for which they are intended.

The Council's Avoiding Fraud and Corruption Policy has been reviewed.

The Policy provides;

- a clear statement of intent and responsibilities for the investigation, reporting and handling of alleged irregularities
- clearly defined responsibilities for Officers, Members and stake holders and their roles and responsibilities in preventing fraud, corruption and bribery.
- reference to the Whistle blowing Policy
- reference to the Money Laundering Policy
- a robust deterrent approach
- a commitment to the recovery of any financial loss to the Council
- a commitment to an effective and robust approach in raising awareness to fraud and corruption throughout the Authority
- reference to the responsibility and role of the Audit and Governance Committee
- clearly defined internal control responsibilities
- effective lines of communication between the Council and others
- a commitment to a fair and proper investigative process

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report and endorse the attached Avoiding Fraud and Corruption Policy.

Name and contact details of author:

Carol Quinton
Investigation Manager
Telephone: (01865) 252478
cquinton@oxford.gov.uk

Sarah Fogden/Penny Gardner
Heads of Finance
Telephone: (01865) 252708
sfogden@oxford.gov.uk or pgardner@oxford.gov.uk

Background papers:

Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy.