

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

6 September 2006

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 ANTI-FRAUD POLICIES

Summary

This report asks Members of Cabinet to consider the Anti-Fraud Policies and to recommend their endorsement by Council. Please refer to draft policies presented to Audit Committee on 26 June 2006.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Council introduced the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy in November 2000 as part of the Council's overall approach to Corporate Governance. Following the introduction of the Housing Benefit Performance Standards in 2002 a separate policy specific to Benefits was required.

1.1.2 In order to ensure that these policies remain current and effective they are reviewed on an annual basis. As part of the policy framework they are reviewed by the Policy & Best Value Committee followed by Cabinet and full Council.

1.1.3 In addition they are also considered by the Audit Committee and this consideration took place at the meeting of 26 June 2006.

1.1.4 Following this annual review they are circulated electronically to all staff with Groupwise access, put on staff display boards, displayed on the Intranet and the Council Website.

1.2 Other Committee Consideration

1.2.1 The Audit Committee pointed out that the wording in paragraph 2.1.5 of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement referred to the Standing Orders of the Council and this has been corrected to refer to the Constitution.

1.2.2 There were no other recommendations for alteration to the documents and the Audit Committee recommended endorsement by Council via Policy & Best Value Committee and Cabinet.

1.2.3 The Policies were also considered by Members of the Policy & Best Value Committee of 23 August 2006. This report is being prepared prior to this Cabinet meeting and any requested amendments will be reported verbally to this Cabinet.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 There are no legal requirements for the Council to have any anti-fraud policies.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The existence of Anti-Fraud Policies that are regularly reviewed and circulated assists in promoting the anti-fraud culture of this Council.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Although it is not a legislative requirement to have these policies they are examined as part of the external review process of this Council. Not having them could result in negative CPA scoring or failure to meet the Housing Benefit Performance Standards.

1.5.2 Having Anti-Fraud Policies demonstrates the Council's commitment to an honest and open culture. A regular review and circularisation assists in ensuring that they have a high profile within the Council.

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Members of Cabinet are requested to consider the Anti-Fraud Policies and to **recommend** their endorsement by Council.

Background papers:

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Audit Committee Agenda 26 June 2006

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