

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

1 February 2011

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 REVIEW OF ANTI-FRAUD POLICIES

Members are requested to endorse the revised Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy and the Housing and Council Tax Benefits Anti-Fraud Policy. Members are advised that these matters are also being considered by the Policy Overview Committee on 18 January and the Audit Committee on 24 January, and that any issues raised at that meeting will be reported verbally.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 As reported to the January 2011 meeting of the Policy Overview Committee these Policies have been in place for a number of years and Members are asked to review them annually to ensure that they are kept up to date and are regularly circulated to staff to maintain their profile.
- 1.1.2 These revisions have been considered jointly by Tonbridge & Malling and Gravesham staff as part of the partnership arrangements between the Internal Audit and Benefit Investigation Sections. There is a high degree of consistency between the policies of both authorities.
- 1.1.3 The Policy Overview Committee considered these policies at their January meeting and Members were asked to recommend both policies for adoption by Cabinet and Council.
- 1.1.4 In addition, the same policies were considered by the Audit Committee on the evening of 24 January 2011.
- 1.1.5 The outcomes of these considerations and any recommendations made at either meeting will be reported verbally to Cabinet.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from these changes

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 There are no additional resource implications.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 It is considered necessary for these policies to be updated and distributed to staff on a regular basis as well as being available to all stakeholders to add to the overall culture of the organisation.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Subject to any further issues being raised by the Audit Committee, Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to endorse the proposed policies to Council.

Background papers:

contact: David Buckley

Equality Impact Assessment reported to Policy
Overview and Audit Committees

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	NO	The objective of the policies is to state the approach of the Council when dealing with potential fraud.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	YES	Any legal action considered in relation to fraud will use the Code for Crown Prosecutors as a guidance for the decision making process.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.