

**Report to Standards Committee – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

Report of Interim Director of Law and Property

**The Anti Fraud & Corruption Strategy**

**Purpose of Report**

- 1.0 The original Strategy was approved by Council in 2004 and has not been updated since that time.
- 1.1 This report proposes a revised Strategy [see Appendix 1].

**Background**

- 2.0 The corporate governance arrangements for the Council are enshrined in the Constitution and specifically the Code of Corporate Governance. An important part of the governance agenda is for Members and Senior Officers to demonstrate the highest standards of ethics and to promote a culture in which the public, staff and contractors understand that fraud and corruption will not be tolerated in Dudley.
- 2.1 The revisions to the previous strategy relate principally to reinforcing the message that we are committed to protecting public funds and assets. Other changes reflect :-
  - a. Revisions to Financial Regulations
  - b. Including the titles of Head Teachers and Governors to demonstrate the inclusion of Schools
  - c. The development of risk management which includes the risk of fraud
  - d. Including reference to Partnerships who should also consider the risk of fraud
- 2.2 Audit Services produced the original Anti Fraud & Corruption Strategy and the proposed revisions and going into 2009/10 they intend to reinforce the message that fraud and corruption will not be tolerated by developing a fraud action plan which will include :-
  - a. Production of a fraud newsletter to all staff twice a year
  - b. Continued delivery of frauds awareness seminars
  - c. Development of an on line fraud awareness course
  - d. A programme of work by Audit to assist in the detection of fraud e.g. increased data mining and matching techniques.

**Finance**

- 3.0 There are no significant financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Law**

- 4.0 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

## **Equality Impact**

- 5.0 This report takes account of the Council's Policies on equality and diversity

## **Recommendations**

- 6.0 That Standards Committee approve the Anti Fraud & Corruption Strategy.



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