

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 JULY 2009

REPORT BY INTERNAL AUDIT AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT  
MANAGER

10. ANTI-FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY AND DISCLOSURE  
(WHISTLEBLOWING) CODE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy and Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Code be approved.

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To update existing strategies and policies in accordance with the business arrangements within the Council.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Priorities

2.1 **Fit for purpose, services fit for you**

*Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.*

3.0 Background

3.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and the Confidential Reporting Code were approved by Human Resources Committee on 5 July 2007. These documents were also submitted to the Standards Committee on 19 August 2008 and the Committee supported the view that the documents needed to be simplified. Both documents have subsequently been reviewed and revised.

4.0 Report

4.1 The above strategies and protocols have recently been reviewed by the Internal Audit and Business Improvement Manager, the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Internal Services, together with significant input from one of the lay members of the Standards Committee. Corporate Management Team gave their approval on 9 June 2009.

- 4.2 Two revised documents have been drawn up entitled the “Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy” and “Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Code”. The two documents link together to provide a consistent approach to the management of anti-fraud measures throughout the Council.
- 4.3 The Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy (Appendix ‘A’, pages 10.4 - 10.11) helps the Council to foster a culture of integrity, honesty and openness throughout the organization. Fraud and corruption are not tolerated or given tacit consent, and all should be alert to any evidence of irregularities and be ready to act upon such evidence.
- 4.4 The Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Code (Appendix ‘B’, pages 10.12 - 10.26) encourages Members, employees and those with whom the Council has dealings to report any reasons to suspect fraud and corruption, without fear of reprisals. The code details the ways in which such information will be handled and followed up.
- 4.5 The two revised documents will also be presented to future meetings of the Standards Committee and the Audit Committee.
- 5.0 Consultation
- 5.1 UNISON has been consulted and has indicated support for these revised documents.
- 5.2 External Audit has been consulted on the proposals to revise the strategies and protocols.
- 6.0 Legal Implications
- 6.1 There are no legal implications.
- 7.0 Financial Implications
- 7.1 There are no financial implications.
- 8.0 Human Resource Implications
- 8.1 As detailed in the report
- 9.0 Risk Management Implications
- 9.1 There are no risk management implications.

## Background Papers

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Confidential Reporting Code -  
Human Resources Committee 5 July 2007.

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