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Report to:	<b>FINANCE &amp; MANAGEMENT</b>	AGENDA ITEM:	8
Date of Meeting:	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April 2003</b>	CATEGORY:	
Report from:	<b>CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER</b>	Open	
Members' Contact Point	<b>TERRY NEAVES (Ext 5800)</b>	Doc:	
Subject:	<b>Anti-Fraud &amp; Corruption Strategy</b>	Ref: TN	
Ward(s) Affected	<b>All</b>	Terms of Reference: FM 09	

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## **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 Members are asked to approve the revised Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy set out at Annex A.

## **2. Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 This report sets out the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.

## **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 Members approved the original Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy in March 2001. This strategy has now been reviewed to confirm that it is still relevant for the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption work.
- 3.2 Essentially the strategy summarises the Council's approach to dealing with instances of Fraud and Corruption and more important, the steps it intends to take to minimise them.
- 3.3 The strategy is an important part of the Council's Corporate Governance Arrangemetns.

## **4. Detail**

- 4.1 At the outset it must be emphasised that instances of fraud and corruption within the Council are extremely rare.
- 4.2 Council systems are reviewed regularly by both the Council internal auditors and the District Audit service to confirm that they are working efficiently to protect against fraud and financial irregularity.

- 4.3 Nevertheless it is still important to reinforce measure to protect against fraud and corruption. During a financial year Council systems manage financial transactions in excess of £100m. Accordingly just one instance of fraud could result in a substantial loss to the Council.
- 4.4 Over recent years much more emphasis has been placed on Corporate Governance. Essentially this means that public bodies are expected to put in place the necessary procedures to prevent damage to the Council's reputation, financial position or service delivery.
- 4.5 The anti-fraud and corruption strategy plays a key role within Corporate Governance. This is recognised within the revised strategy.
- 4.6 The revised strategy also confirms the Council's firm stance on prosecuting instances of fraud or financial irregularity as a further deterrent. This is set out in Appendix B to the revised strategy.
- 4.7 Clearly the Council wants people to feel able to raise concerns in a confidential and open manner. This is set out in the Council's Whistle-Blowing Strategy, which is due to be reviewed in 2004.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None stemming directly from this strategy.

## **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 Audit Commission Report - Probity in Local Government