

	<b>Finance &amp; Audit Scrutiny Committee</b> <b>- 10 July 2012</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;"><b>5</b></div>
---	--	--

<b>Title</b>	<b>Anti Fraud and Corruption Progress Report</b>
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	John King Tel: (01926) 456816 E Mail: john.king@warwickdc.gov.uk
<b>Service Area</b>	Finance
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Not applicable
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</b>	No
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2011 Minute 24
<b>Background Papers</b>	Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No

**Officer/Councillor Approval**

With regard to officer approval all reports *must* be approved by the report author's relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).

<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Deputy Chief Executive	12 June 2012	Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer	12 June 2012	Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance	12 June 2012	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	12 June 2012	Councillor Andrew Mobbs

**Consultation Undertaken**

Not applicable

**Final Decision?** Yes

**Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)**

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The council's current Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy was approved in September 2005 with the intention that it be reviewed annually and that an action plan was formulated to help deliver its objectives. A copy of the strategy is attached as Appendix D.
- 1.2 One of the purposes of the strategy is to state publicly the council's zero tolerance attitude to fraud and corruption of any kind and to set out a series of measures and procedures designed to prevent, deter and detect any attempts at fraud and corruption.
- 1.3 Keeping the strategy under review, and as part of that preparing and completing an action plan each year, contributes to improving the control environment, raising awareness on fraud and corruption issues and the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.
- 1.4 This report details progress against the 2011/2012 action plan and presents the 2012/2013 action plan.
- 1.5 Progress against the action plan will be monitored on a regular basis throughout the year.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That members note the report and its contents, in particular the progress being made in implementing the action plan for 2011/2012. (Appendix A)
- 2.2 That members approve the updated action plan for 2012/2013. (Appendix B)

## 3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The strategy has been reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate and that it bears comparison with the strategies in place at other authorities. No changes are considered necessary.
- 3.2 The action plan for 2012/2013 needs to be approved. The action plan is based on the continuous improvement of the council's anti fraud and corruption measures. Progress against the action plan for 2011/2012 also needs to be considered.

## 4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 There are no alternatives to approving the updated action plan.

## 5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 It is possible for fraud and corruption to have some bearing on all of the council's activities. However, approval of the action plan does not have a direct impact on any budget.

## 6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The council is committed to managing its services and resources openly, fairly and efficiently. The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy assists in delivering those aims.

## 7. **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 Fraud and corruption in both the public and private sectors is a problem that has been around for many years and it shows no signs of abating. Whilst the problem has always been one of great significance it has become a source of even greater irritation as the Government attempts to deal with the parlous state of the economy. Central government initiatives are loudly proclaimed but their effect is minimal as fraudsters become ever more resourceful. In the mid 1990s the Audit Commission produced a series of reports entitled "Protecting the Public Purse" which drew attention to the levels of fraud and corruption in the public sector and made recommendations on measures to address the problem.
- 7.2 One of the recommendations concerned the creation of an anti fraud culture which included the formal adoption of a policy which stated the council's zero tolerance attitude and sent a clear message to all concerned that fraud and corruption would not be tolerated.
- 7.3 The council first adopted a policy in September 1995 and was commended by the Audit Commission for being one of the first local authorities in the country to do so. This was replaced by the current policy and strategy in September 2005. A minor amendment was approved in July 2011.