

Subject:	Counter Fraud Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	31st March 2009		
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name: Ian Withers	Tel: 29-1323	
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 23, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) are that the revised Counter Fraud Strategy was due to be considered and agreed by the Officer's Governance Board on 24th March prior to the Audit Committee.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report presents the revised Counter Fraud Strategy for the Audit Committee's consideration as part of the council's corporate governance arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Audit Committee notes the contents of the Counter Fraud Strategy and recommends its approval by the Governance Committee.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The council has a Counter Fraud Programme part of which is the continual review of the Counter Fraud Strategy to ensure effective in meeting its purpose and assist in minimising the risk of fraud and corruption.
- 3.2 The last Counter Fraud Strategy (then called the Anti Fraud & Corruption Strategy) was approved by full council in January 2006
- 3.3 Whilst there is no evidence that fraud and corruption is a major problem in Brighton & Hove City Council, it is important not to be complacent, given that the incentives and opportunities for fraud and corruption are increasing e.g. associated with the economic downturn. Accordingly the revised strategy will strengthen the council's counter fraud arrangements in providing a comprehensive, integrated, systematic and strategic organisational response to the challenges of combating fraud and corruption.

4. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. A robust Counter Fraud Strategy is an essential part of the Council's counter fraud framework and assist in minimising financial losses due to fraud and corruption.

Finance Officer Consulted: Patrick Rice

Date: 26th March 2009

Head of Financial Services – Corporate & Environment

4.2 Legal Implications:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report but individual actions in the strategy may require legal support and advice.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon, Lawyer

Date: 26th March 2009

4.3 Equalities Implications:

There are no direct equalities implications arising directly from this report.

4.4 Sustainability Implications:

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

4.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

There no direct implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

4.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The Risk and Opportunity Management Strategy consider the risk of fraud and corruption in assessments.

4.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Robust corporate governance arrangements including counter fraud and corruption are essential to the sound management of the City Council and the achievement of its objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Background Documents

1. Internal Audit Plan 2008/09 (Containing Counter Fraud Programme)
2. Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government (CIPFA) 2006
3. Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 (Amended 2006)
4. Managing the Risk of Fraud
– Actions to counter fraud and corruption (CIPFA) 2008

