

Agenda Item

Executive Board

26 September 2007

TC



Revised and updated Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy and redrafted Whistle Blowing Policy (with Quick Guides)

Summary

The attached Report explains the need to revise and update the current Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy (and quick guide) and to redraft the Whistle Blowing Policy and create a quick guide in order to bring them into line with best practice and to avoid criticism from the external auditor.

Recommendation

That SMT and Executive Board refers the revised and updated Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy (and Quick Guide) and the redrafted Whistle Blowing Policy (and Quick Guide) to the Audit & Governance Committee for their detailed consideration with a request that the Audit & Governance Committee reports back to the Executive Board in due course.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

To ensure the Council's ethical procedures reflect best practice and are appropriate for Council employees, Councillors and citizens of East Devon.

b) Alternative Options

None

c) Risk Considerations

To not review and redraft the Council's ethical policies would result in:

- Staff, Councillors and citizens not reporting suspicious behaviour
- Two related policies that do not complement each other
- Outdated Council policy will attract criticism from various inspection agencies

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

None

e) Date for Review of Decision

N/a

1. Introduction

The Council's ethical policies comprise:

- Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption Policy – this policy should help to prevent any attempted theft, fraud or corrupt act and explains the steps taken to control and report any such act.
- Anti-Fraud, Theft and Corruption – Quick Guide – This is folded leaflet that summarises the main policy and which is available to staff, Councillors and citizens.

- Whistle Blowing Policy – this policy gives guidance on raising concerns, primarily in relation to fraud, theft and/or corruption, and sets out the council's procedures for dealing with a whistle blowing incident.
- Whistle Blowing – Quick Guide – This is folded leaflet that summarises the main policy and which is available to staff, Councillors and citizens.

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

N/a

Background Papers

- Financial Regulations
- Financial Operating Procedures
- Contract Standing Orders
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- Staff and Member Codes of Conduct

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