

29 MARCH 2000

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIT COMMISSION PUBLICATION 'PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PURSE'

Does the Council have an anti-fraud and corruption strategy? ***Proposed in this paper***

Does the Council have formal arrangements for employees to make disclosures in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (whistle blowers protection act)? **Yes**

Does the Council have a named police liaison contact officer? **Yes**

Does the Council currently have a code of conduct for members? **Yes**

If so, does it already include the 15 General Principles that are set out in the new Modern Local Government White Paper? ***Not formally but believe that current code goes a long way towards meeting these.***

Has the Council set up a Standards Committee? **Yes**

Has the Council introduced the Housing Benefit Verification Framework? **Yes - 1999**

In relation to the Social Security Administration (Fraud) act 1997, has the Council appointed staff as inspectors under s111 of the Act? ***No, not needed at present but aware of power and will implement if necessary.***

Has the Council initiated penalties under the Act? ***Procedure approved by Committee but implementation awaiting software improvements.***

Has the Council initiated the requirement for all applicants to state a NI number? **Yes.**

Will the Council take up funding from the DSS to implement postal redirections? **Yes, we will. Working on details but implementation imminent.**