

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 24 OCTOBER 2007**

## **ANTI FRAUD & ANTI CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

### **Report by Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To seek approval of a proposed Anti-Fraud and Anti Corruption Strategy.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Council has well developed management structures, arrangements and systems for the provision of services and for the control of its finances. All of these arrangements are subject to regular review and scrutiny, both internally and also by external audit and other inspection bodies
- 2.2** This report proposes the adoption of an Anti Fraud & Anti Corruption Strategy as part of the Council's overall corporate governance framework. This is designed to consolidate, clarify and improve the range of policies, procedures and practices in place across the Council.

#### **3 PROPOSED ANTI FRAUD & ANTI CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

- 3.1** The proposed strategy is included as an Appendix to this report and it aims to support the Council's overall objective of delivering high quality, value for money services. The Council already has in place a well developed anti fraud & anti corruption culture with the standards expected set down in a number of codes, policies and procedures.
- 3.2** The Strategy sets out the general roles of employees and Elected Members in relation to reducing fraud and corruption and in addition identifies specific responsibilities aimed at supporting the Strategy. It is therefore targeted at maximising the effectiveness of current measures to deter, prevent and detect any fraud and corruption that may exist.
- 3.3** All allegations and suspicions of fraud will be appropriately investigated. The Council will pursue prosecution in all appropriate cases, apply available sanctions where prosecution is not considered appropriate and will seek to maximise the recovery of all losses suffered from fraud and corruption.
- 3.4** If approved, arrangements will be put in place to promote the Strategy throughout the Council and Executive Directors and Heads of Service will make suitable arrangements for copies of the Strategy to be circulated to all senior staff. In turn they will be responsible for briefing members of staff within their own supervision and management remit.

## **4 CONCLUSION**

**4.1** The proposed Anti Fraud & Anti Corruption Strategy provides a framework for limiting the Council's exposure to fraud and corruption and reinforces the various mechanisms currently in place to achieve this. It further demonstrates the Council's commitment to good corporate governance and the continued development of a strong and effective anti fraud culture.

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1** It is recommended that Members:

- i) Approve the attached Anti Fraud & Anti Corruption Strategy;
- ii) Request Executive Directors and Heads of Service to make arrangements for the promotion of the Strategy within each of their Services;
- iii) Otherwise note the content of the report.

**Alex McPhee**

Executive Head of Finance & Asset Management

11 October 2007

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

Any person wishing further information should contact Robin Baker Financial Controller (Telephone 01563 576331).