

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Cherwell District Council's Anti-Bribery Policy

22 June 2011

Report of Head of Finance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present Cherwell District Council's Anti-Bribery Policy for endorsement by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee is recommended:

- (1) To endorse Cherwell District Council's Anti-Bribery Policy (Appendix 1).

Summary

- 1.1 The Bribery Act 2010 gained Royal assent on 08/04/10 and creates a corporate offence of failure to prevent bribery, and requires the Council to implement adequate procedures to prevent bribery. Ministry of Justice Guidance is now available www.justice.gov.uk and suggests ways the Council can implement proportionate measures, if not already in place. The Act will come into force from 1/07/11
- 1.2 The Council recognises that any member of staff that engages in bribery will reflect adversely on the image and reputation of the Council and public sector in general. The aim therefore is to limit the Council's risk of exposure to bribery. The Anti-Bribery Policy contributes to the Council fulfilling this requirement.
- 1.3 The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee has responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Council's counter fraud and corruption arrangements and report any concerns to the Executive.
- 1.4 The Council's Investigations Manager and the Senior Counter-Fraud Specialist, PricewaterhouseCoopers (the council's internal auditors) gave a presentation on corporate fraud to the Committee at their meeting of 15 June 2011.
- 1.5 At this the Committee also reviewed the draft Anti-Bribery Policy and recommended a small number of amendments, which have been incorporated into the final version attached at appendix 1. The amendments are as follows:

- Minor revision to the guidance sentence
- Amended the enactment date to 1/07/11 as there was slippage
- Inserted the section on who the policy applies to
- Amended the Investigations Managers job title, which has changed
- Re-formatted the statement

1.6 The Committee agreed that the Anti-Bribery Policy should be admitted as an urgent item to the 22 June 2011 Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee agenda to enable the final version of the policy to be endorsed before the Bribery Act 2010 enters into force on 1 July 2011.

Implications

Financial:	There are no financial issues arising from this report. Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant 01295 221559.
Legal:	The Bribery Act 2010 gained Royal assent on 08/04/10 and creates a corporate offence of failure to prevent bribery, and requires the Council to implement adequate procedures to prevent bribery. Cherwell District Council's Anti-Bribery Policy contributes to the Council fulfilling this requirement. Comments checked by Nigel Bell, Interim Monitoring Officer, 01295 221687.
Risk Management:	It is important to limit the Council's exposure to bribery. Any member of staff that engages in bribery will reflect adversely on the image and reputation of the Council and public sector in general Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant, 01295 221559.

Wards Affected

All wards are affected.

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Cherwell District Council's Anti-Bribery Policy
Background Papers	
All AARC Agendas and Supporting Reports	
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