

## **ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy Statement is to set out the Council's commitment to the highest standards of propriety in the delivery of its services ensuring the proper stewardship of public funds.
- 1.2 Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is committed to the highest ethical standards in accordance with the principles laid down by the Nolan Committee ("Standards of Conduct in Local Government 1997"). Its Members and employees will promote an anti-fraud culture and establish a framework by which the Council participates in counter fraud initiatives.
- 1.3 Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is determined that the culture and tone of the organisation is one of honesty and opposition to fraud, and will ensure probity in local administration and governance by taking positive action against all forms of fraud and corruption. It will recognise the risks and use resources in partnership with relevant external agencies to reduce and eliminate fraud and corruption which deprives services of much needed resources.
- 1.4 **Southend-on-Sea Borough Council expects:**
  - Its Members and employees to act with integrity at all times and to be totally honest and trustworthy by complying with all laws and regulations applicable to the Council's business.
  - Customers, contractors, suppliers and all other third parties to be honest in their dealings with the Council.
  - Its Members and employees to report suspected fraud, corruption or other financial irregularity, either directly or via the Chief Officer, to the Borough Treasurer or his representative, the Chief Internal Auditor, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 11.5. Alternatively, the matter may be reported through the Council's Confidential Reporting Policy.
- 1.5 **Southend-on-Sea Borough Council will not tolerate fraud or irregularity perpetrated by:**
  - Its Members or employees against the Council or others;
  - Customers, suppliers, claimants or other third parties against the Council
- 1.6 **Where fraud is found or suspected the Council's intention is to:**
  - Consider cases on their merits and investigate appropriately, all enquiries being carried out with the utmost propriety.
  - Work within guidelines based on best practice and relevant legislation.
  - Institute disciplinary action, in-house prosecution (in accordance with the Fraud Prosecution Policy) or referral to the Police where it is appropriate.
  - Seek compensation and costs as appropriate when public funds have been defrauded.
- 1.7 **The Council's Anti Fraud & Corruption Strategy will supplement this Policy Statement by detailing the actions that the Council will take.**