

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY & AUDIT COMMITTEE – 28 January 2014

BENEFIT FRAUD PROSECUTION AND SANCTION POLICY

REPORT BY SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE

ABSTRACT

This report informs the committee of amendments to the Council's Benefit Fraud Prosecution and Sanction Policy.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Scrutiny & Audit Committee note the revised Benefit Fraud Prosecution and Sanction Policy, attached at [Appendix I](#).

2. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to report 633/13, approved by the Council on 19 November 2013. Section 5 of the report advised members of changes to Financial Regulations which had been approved by the Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance under delegated authority. Paragraph 5.12 of the report refers to changes to the Benefit Fraud Prosecution and Sanction Policy.

3. ROLE OF THE SCRUTINY & AUDIT COMMITTEE

The terms of reference of the committee involve consideration of reports on the adequacy of the Council's counter-fraud arrangements. The Benefit Fraud Prosecution has been amended to reflect legislative changes regarding penalty charges that can be applied. It has also been amended to reflect the fact that, following the changes to the Council's management structure, decisions regarding prosecution or sanctions in respect of benefit fraud cases will be taken jointly by the Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance and the Service Manager (Governance).

It is recommended that members note the content of the revised policy and provide any commentary considered appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5. RISKS

This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising directly from this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues contained in the report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

8. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Strategic Director-Resources, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JANINE WILSON
SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Sections 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

Gov/JW/SC

Appendices

Benefit Fraud Prosecution and Sanction Policy