

# Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Policy Statement

Southampton City Council is committed to highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability. This is reflected in the Council's core organisation values which state that 'we will work with integrity, openness and honesty - our standards of conduct are based on trust, respect, fairness, honesty, sincerity and equality'.

The Council recognises that the citizens of Southampton need to have confidence in those that are responsible for the delivery of services. A fraudulent or corrupt act can impact on public confidence in the Council and damage both its reputation and image. This effect may often exceed the significance or value of the act itself.

This policy statement sets out Southampton City Council's approach and commitment to the prevention and detection of fraud or corruption and should be considered in conjunction with the Council's Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Strategy.

The policy statement applies to all employees, elected members and others who work for or on behalf of the Council.

The following principles summarise the Council's commitment to the elimination of fraud and corruption. The Council will:

- **Culture:** seek to create an anti fraud and anti corruption and zero tolerance culture;
- **Deterrence:** work closely with the police and other appropriate external agencies to combat fraud or corruption and support national and local initiatives against fraud or corruption;
- **Prevention:** seek to design fraud and corruption out of new policies and systems and to revise existing ones to remove apparent weaknesses;
- **Detection:** provide appropriate mechanisms for employees to voice their genuine concerns and protect those who do so;
- **Investigation:** adopt formal procedures to investigate fraud or corruption when it is suspected;
- **Sanctions:** deal robustly with perpetrators of fraud or corruption and have no hesitation in referring cases to the attention of the police where it is appropriate to do so;
- **Redress:** take all reasonable measures in relation to seeking redress in respect of money defrauded.

The management of fraud risk is the responsibility of everybody in the Council and the Council expects all its employees and elected members to lead by example.