Equality Impact Assessment
Validation Decision Notice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EIA Reference Number</th>
<th>127</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service, policy, or strategy</td>
<td>Anti-Fraud Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names of Assessors</td>
<td>Investigation Officer/Senior Investigation Officer/ Court Officer/ Principal Investment Surveyor</td>
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</tbody>
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Consider:

- Was discrimination or disadvantage identified? Yes No
- Was the service promoting equality? Yes No
- Could the service be improved in promoting equality? Yes No
- Are the customers' needs understood and met? Yes No
- Is there good evidence and/or reasoning to support the decisions on whether groups are/aren't affected? Yes No
- Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment? Yes No
- Is the summary report clear and easy to understand? Yes No
- If improvements have been identified, do they reflect and deal with the key findings? Yes No

The decision is to: Validate ☑ Not validate ☐

The reason(s) for the decision are: please give details below

- Validation given – information correct ☑
- Not validated – decision not to proceed as EIA incorrect ☐
- Not validated - screening error ☐
- Not validated – research/consultation error ☐
- Not validated – improvement error ☐

Signed

Name
Karen Brimacombe

Designation
Corporate Director

Date
30 September 2011
Equality Impact Assessment

Briefing Note

Stage 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE 1 – Briefing Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EIA ID (Sinbad reference number)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job Titles of assessors</strong></td>
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The Assessment

The Anti-Fraud Strategy is reviewed every year to ensure practices are up to date and are in line with council policies and meet the business needs.

Assessment Findings

The Strategy outlines the procedures and policies used when the Anti-Fraud Team investigate benefit fraud. It was found that investigations normally follow a logical pattern and are governed by legislation, such as the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 that lays down strict criteria on how people are treated. There is a code of practice that investigators work to which sets out how the council expects them to behave. All persons subject to investigation are subject to the same procedures and considerations set down in the Anti-Fraud Strategy.

Justification

There is no requirement for a full EIA as it has been identified that the strategy as no person or group benefit or are disadvantaged by the strategy. There are provisions in place by means of legislative powers and procedures to protect the vulnerable. The individual is also given opportunity to contact the investigation officer and arrange any discuss any particular need/concern that they might have. Consideration is given for visiting people in their home in certain cases where transportation or financial situations arise. Each investigation officer is appointed by the Chief Executive and signs a code of conduct annually.

The Law sets out how different groups/people should be treated and this is strictly adhered to by the investigation officers.
Stage 6

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<tr>
<td>Date of assessment</td>
<td>27/07/11</td>
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The Assessment

The Anti-Fraud strategy for the Anti-Fraud team – Corporate Governance was assessed. This covers the key aspects of the investigation process and how the team operate and legislation and procedures adopted during the investigation process.

The Customer/Customer Group

None

Consultation and Research

Other Local Authority Anti-Fraud strategies were considered when the document was compiled. Legislation such as the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was also consulted as a reference as this determines how investigations should be conducted and the treatment of interviewees.

Key Individuals and Organisations

This document is reviewed annually with the investigation officers and the Corporate Governance Manager.

Assessment Findings

The Anti-Fraud Strategy does not benefit or disadvantage any group in the Equality Impact Assessment. There are strict guidelines under legislation such as the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 that protect the rights of individuals subject to investigation. There is also a Code of conduct for Investigators that is reviewed annually and signed by the investigation officer. The individual is also given the opportunity to contact the officer direct if they wish to. Where possible provisions will be made to meet any issues that might affect an individual.

Recommendations

The document has been found to meet the requirements under the Equality Impact Assessment. It was raised that the interview room does not have a hearing loop fitted. Due to the plans to relocate the interview room under the planned move from Parklands to Deanes building it will be proposed for the new room. In the event the move does not take place then this will be reviewed again with the view to installing a hearing loop.