

Overview & Scrutiny

Confidence in your Council



Report OSB/9/05 of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 12th July 2005

REVISION TO FRAUD SANCTION POLICY

1. At its meeting on 18th May 2005, the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered Report 27/2005, which informed Members of the proposed revisions to the Council's Fraud Sanction Policy.
2. The Report asked the Board to endorse the revised fraud sanction policies which, if implemented, would bring the Council in line with government guidelines.
3. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) monetary guidelines regarding administration penalties and cautions changed from November 2004, and the current Council policy does not reflect these changes. From 11th November 2004 the DWP is now giving more consideration to the individual customer's circumstances when deciding the appropriateness of using a formal caution or offering an administrative penalty for fraud if the:
 - evidential requirement for prosecution is satisfied, and
 - overpayment is less than £2,000
4. Therefore based on these changes and the fact that joint working is to be considered in all cases involving Housing/Council Tax Benefit and a relevant DWP administered benefit, it is felt that it is necessary to amend the policy currently being used by Torbay Council to bring it into line with DWP practice and guidelines.
5. The Board fully endorses the revised fraud sanction policy and therefore recommends that the Executive accept and approves the revised Fraud Sanction policies.