

8.3 Data Matching

The Council will undertake data matching exercises as it sees as appropriate for the purposes of identifying and reducing fraud and corruption.

Monthly data matching files and Real Time Information (RTI) are received from the DWP and the information used to identify any incorrectness of a Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support claim.

The Council also takes an active part in the **National Fraud Initiative** as organised by the Cabinet Office. This involves submitting data we hold in various departments of the Council for matching to that held by other organisations and following up promptly any matches received back.

8.4 Probity Audits

Probity audits will be included in the Internal Audit Plan, as time allows, aimed specifically at identifying irregularities or providing assurance that they do not exist.

9. Investigation

The Council will maintain an *Irregularity Response Plan* detailing how allegations of fraud and irregularity will be managed and investigated.

Report of incidents involving employees will be dealt with in accordance with the *Employee Disciplinary Rules and Procedures*. Reports of incidents involving elected members will be passed to the Monitoring Officer to be dealt with in accordance with the *Members Misconduct Complaints Procedure*.

The procedures seek to ensure that:

- there is consistent treatment of fraud and corruption issues;
- a proper investigation is carried out by suitably qualified officers;
- the Authority's and Community's interests are best served.

Investigating officers are required to ensure that investigations are objective, fair and complete and that they comply with the relevant statutory provisions and internal procedures including *The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) – Corporate Policy & Procedure*.

Where criminal activity is suspected the investigators may notify the police and seek their advice. Any internal investigations will continue to be progressed alongside supporting the Police in their investigation.



The Council expects the fullest co-operation from all members and officers who are called upon to assist with an investigation into suspected fraud and corruption.

