

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

6th June 2017

REPORT OF HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT

COUNTER FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with a copy of the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy for review and approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Members review and approve the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy.**
- 2.2 **Subject to 2.1 approval the revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy be referred to Full Council for approval and the Constitution be updated accordingly with the revised document.**
- 2.3 **That Full Council approve that delegated authority be given to the Head of Central Services to make minor changes to the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy.**

3.0 COUNTER FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

- 3.1 The Council's last Counter Fraud Strategy was reviewed and approved in July 2014. In 2016/17, Internal Audit reviewed the Council's suite of counter fraud policies and highlighted a number of areas where the existing policy could be strengthened in line with best practice.
- 3.2 The policy should set out and support the Council's approach to preventing, detecting, investigating and recovering monies from attempted frauds. The policy should set the zero tolerance culture at the Council and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in pro-actively managing this risk.
- 3.3 Should a suspected fraud be identified, the Council holds a Fraud Response Plan which sets out, in detail, the procedures to be followed. The Fraud Response Plan has been fully reviewed and updated as part of this exercise and is now held as a separate document to the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy – on the basis that this relates to internal procedures.
- 3.4 Following the adoption of the revised policy, it is intended that the online training module for staff on Counter Fraud will be reviewed to ensure it is fully in line with the updated policy requirements and best practice.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no wider policy implications arising from this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial or other resource implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly from this report.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 The risk of fraud should be acknowledged and actively managed by the Council. An effective Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy should support this approach.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 N/A

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected by the report.

Contact Officer Rachel Ashley-Caunt
Date: 19/05/2017

Appendices : A – Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy

Background Papers: N/A

Reference : N/A