



Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy

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Lead Member/Relevant Portfolio Holder	N/A

Corporate Priority:	All
Relevant Ward Member(s):	N/A
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	No

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the committee with a new Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy for review and approval.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That Committee:

1. Approves the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy.

3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 To approve the policy which will set the framework by which the Council will manage the risks of fraud and corruption.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy should set out the Council's objectives, roles and responsibilities, and strategic direction in relation to preventing, detecting and tackling the risks of fraud and corruption. The policy should clearly communicate the Council's zero tolerance culture and provide a clear framework for managing the risks and providing a route for referring any concerns.
- 4.2 The Council's current policy is due for review. A full update of the policy has been conducted to align with the latest recommended practice and national guidance.
- 4.3 Within the Council's Constitution, the Audit and Standards Committee has the delegated power to 'approve Strategies and Policies relevant to the functions of the Committee as determined by the Chief Finance Officer'.

5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 The new policy provides details on:
- a) The roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in tackling the risks of fraud and corruption;
 - b) How the Council intends to manage the associated risks, in line with the latest Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally guidance; and
 - c) How any concerns or suspicions should be raised to enable a timely and professional investigation.
- 5.2 The policy does not introduce any significant changes to existing controls but seeks to clarify and embed how these support a robust counter fraud framework.
- 5.3 The policy has been informed by CIPFA's Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption and in the Local Government Fraud Strategy – Fighting Fraud Locally (2020).

6 Options Considered

- 6.1 A basic update of the existing policy was considered but it was considered best practice to conduct a full review of the policy coverage and produce a new policy aligned with latest guidance and good practice.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 The Council's Senior Leadership Team has been consulted on the draft policy.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

- 8.1 If approved, the policy will be adopted and communicated to all staff. The policy will be made available on the Council's external internet pages and internal sites.

9 Financial Implications

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

Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

10 Legal and Governance Implications

10.1 A robust counter fraud and corruption policy should ensure that the Council consistently applies a strong control framework to prevent and detect any attempts to defraud the organisation. The policy includes roles and responsibilities for officers and Members which must be complied with to ensure good governance.

Internal Legal Implications reviewed by: Interim Assistant Director for Governance & Democracy (Monitoring Officer)

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

11.1 There are no equalities or safeguarding implications arising directly from this report.

12 Data Protection Implications (Mandatory)

12.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons arising directly from this report.

13 Community Safety Implications

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

14 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

14.1 There are no environmental and climate change implications arising directly from this report.

15 Other Implications (where significant)

15.1 There are no other implications arising directly from this report.

16 Risk & Mitigation

16.1 The policy is intended to manage the risks of fraud and corruption.

17 Background Papers

17.1 None

18 Appendices

18.1 Appendix A: Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy