

COMMITTEE REPORT

CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

28 July 2016

Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present Members of the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee with the updated Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy for their comment and information.

BACKGROUND

2. All local authorities face a significant fraud challenge with fraud costing local authorities an estimated £2.1bn a year. Fraud and corruption are a drain on local authority resources and can lead to reputational damage. In response to the growing risk of fraud, the Council introduced its Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy in 2011. The Policy was drafted by Internal Audit and approved by the Section 151 Officer and by the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee (then Audit and Governance Committee).
3. The Policy has been reviewed every one to two years or in response to changes in regulation or legislation. Ideally, updates to a Policy would be highlighted by showing tracked changes to demonstrate the changes made, however the Policy has been more substantially amended during the 2016 review and therefore tracked changes would make the updated version of the document unreadable. The Policy is at **Appendix 1** and the associated Procedures are at **Appendix 2**.
4. The main drivers behind the revised document are as follows:
 - To include a draft statement from the Leadership Management Team setting out their commitment to preventing fraud, bribery and corruption.
 - To update the Policy to reflect organisational and job title/contact changes.
 - To reflect changed responsibilities e.g. transfer of welfare benefits fraud investigation staff to the Department for Work and Pension's Single Fraud Investigation Service.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. Fraud costs the public sector an estimated £20.6 billion per year and local government over £2 billion. The prevention and detection of fraud is therefore crucial to all councils.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no specific financial or ward implications arising from the updated Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. Members are requested to note and comment upon the updated Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy (**Appendix 1**) and supporting Procedures (**Appendix 2**) and confirm their acceptance of the Policy and Procedures.

REASONS

8. A strong anti fraud and corruption culture will underpin the Council's strategic objective of being an effective and efficient Council by ensuring that resources are appropriately used.
9. Internal Audit assists management in delivering the objectives of the Council by working to an annual programme of work that includes assignments linked to fraud, bribery and corruption risks and which seeks to add value by assessing the quality of anti fraud, bribery and corruption controls in place to assure delivery, ensure value for money and achieve better outcomes for local people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. No background papers other than published works were used in writing this report.

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