

REPORT TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 11th March 2015

Report of: AUDIT MANAGERS

Title: COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY

Is this a Key Decision? No

Is this an Executive or Council Function? Council

1. What is the report about?

To seek approval for the revisions to the Council's Counter Fraud Strategy (formerly Anti-Fraud, Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy) – Appendix A.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That the revised Counter Fraud Strategy be approved.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Policy has been revised to bring it up to date and in-line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) code of practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, the latest Government best practice and to clarify roles and responsibilities.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

4.1 None

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no financial implications contained within the report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 None.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

Following a self assessment of the Council's counter fraud capability the Council's Counter Fraud Strategy (formerly Anti-Fraud, Anti-bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy) has been updated to bring it in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) code of practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, the latest Government best practice and to clarify roles and responsibilities. The key amendments to the policy are as follows:

1. Name changed from Anti-Fraud, Anti-Bribery and Ant-Corruption Policy to Counter Fraud Strategy
2. Section 5.4 now includes details of manager's responsibilities in recruitment vetting relating to fraud prevention
3. Section 5E includes an update to the responsibilities of Internal Audit
4. 6.4 includes an emphasis on penalties for breaking public trust
5. Removal of sections on investigation, sanctions and redress and replaced with reference to the Fraud Response Plan that covers these areas in more detail
6. Addition of a Dos and Don'ts Guide at the end of the document

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

Having a strong Counter Fraud Strategy underpins the Council's zero tolerance towards fraud and contributes to "a well run council".

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

N/A

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

N/A

12. Are there any other options?

None

**H Putt / H Kelvey
AUDIT MANAGERS**

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) code of practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption

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