

REPORT TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 30TH NOVEMBER 2022

Report of: AUDIT MANAGER

Title: COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY APPROVAL

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

COUNCIL

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This committee has responsibility for approval of the Council's Counter Fraud Strategy which is reviewed biennially.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 To approve the updated Counter Fraud Strategy at Appendix A.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Council's Counter Fraud Strategy needs to be reviewed every two years to ensure that it is up to date and remains fit for purpose.

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 in this report. However the strategy underpins the Council's approach to fraud and therefore provides an important element of the overall financial framework.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 None identified.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details

8.1 The Council's Counter Fraud Strategy was reviewed in September 2021, however, there were no updates to the content of the strategy and so it was agreed that it would not be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee for approval, however, during the audit conducted by the Council's External Auditor's, Grant Thornton, it was recommended that the strategy should be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee even if there are no changes. Therefore, the strategy was reviewed again in September 2022 and

is now being presented to the Audit and Governance Committee for the biennial approval. There were no changes during the review.

8.2 Once approved by this committee, the updated policy will be communicated to all staff and councillors via the Council's policy management software.

8.3 A copy of the updated policy is included at Appendix A.

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

9.1 Good governance contributes to the Council's purpose of a "Well Run Council".

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

10.1 N/A

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because: because

11.4.1 The report is for information only

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 No

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

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquires:

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