

7 September 2020**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT****ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 2019/20****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present to Members the Council's Annual Fraud Report, and to invite feedback on the content.

Information

2. The Council's strategy for countering fraud and corruption includes the requirement for an Annual Fraud Report to be submitted to the Governance & Ethics Committee. This requirement is included in the strategy with a view to demonstrably strengthening the counter-fraud culture at the Council.
3. The attached report represents the fifth edition of the Annual Fraud Report. It sets out an update regarding national fraud risks impacting on the County Council, the preventative and detected incidents identified over the last 12 months and an assessment of the Council's resilience to attacks. The report also reviews progress against the fraud related actions planned for delivery in 2019/20, along with those to be pursued in 2020/21 to ensure the Council's defences against fraud are maintained.

Other Options Considered

4. None, since the requirement to publish an Annual Fraud Report is a feature of the Council's strategy for countering fraud and corruption.

Reason for Recommendation

5. To inform the Committee of the Council's current arrangements for tackling fraud and corruption and to invite suggestions for how those arrangements can be improved.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Committee notes the content of the Annual Fraud Report 2019/20.
- 2) That the Committee offers its feedback on the adequacy of the Council's current and planned arrangements for tackling fraud and corruption.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SS 19/08/2020)

Governance and Ethics Committee are the appropriate committee to receive this report and they have the power to act upon the recommendations therein.

Financial Comments (SES 19/08/2020)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All