

19 July 2017**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, PROCUREMENT &
IMPROVEMENT****ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 2016/17****Purpose of the Report**

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

Information and Advice

2. The Council's revised strategy for countering fraud and corruption was approved by the Policy Committee in June 2015, following a review of the Council's arrangements against best practice. The revised strategy includes the requirement for an Annual Fraud Report to be submitted to both the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and the Governance & Ethics Committee. This requirement was included in the strategy with a view to demonstrably strengthening the counter-fraud culture at the Council.
3. The attached report represents the second edition of the Annual Fraud Report. Since the first report last year, work has been carried out to strengthen the Fraud Risk Assessment, which is an underpinning element of the strategy. The input of key officers in the Council has been engaged to assess the following
 - the nature of fraud threats facing the Council
 - inherent and residual risk levels.

Other Options Considered

4. The requirement to publish an Annual Fraud Report is a feature of the Council's refreshed 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, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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 2016/17.
- 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

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SMG 23/06/2017)

The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (RWK 22/6/2017)

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

Background Papers

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