



**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, PROCUREMENT &
IMPROVEMENT**

ANNUAL FRAUD REPORT 2015/16

Purpose of the Report

1. To present to Members the Council's first Annual Fraud Report, and to invite feedback on its format, content and proposed development over the coming year.

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 Audit Committee. This new requirement was included in the strategy with a view to demonstrably strengthening the counter-fraud culture at the Council.
3. The attached report represents a first edition of the Annual Fraud Report. It should be acknowledged that this first edition is a work in progress, in particular with regard to one of its underpinning elements, the Fraud Risk Assessment (FRA). The Report highlights this, and sets out plans over the current year to improve it. Principally, consultation on the FRA needs to be more widespread to properly capture the views of key managers in the Council on 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. The format of the report is not regulated, therefore feedback on options for its format and content will help to develop the report for future years.

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 2015/16 and 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 (SLB 09/05/2016)

7. Audit Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 06/05/16)

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