



REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

REVISED COUNTER-FRAUD AND COUNTER-CORRUPTION POLICY AND STRATEGY, AND FRAUD RESPONSE PLAN

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Policy Committee approval for a revised counter-fraud and counter-corruption policy/strategy, along with a fraud response plan for the council.

Information and Advice

2. A self-assessment of the council's counter-fraud arrangements compared with best practice has been carried out. The key findings of the assessment were that good arrangements are generally in place to prevent and detect fraud, but scope was identified to strengthen the counter-fraud culture in the organisation.
3. Two documents were seen as fundamental to bolstering the council's counter-fraud measures:
 - A refreshed counter-fraud & counter-corruption policy and strategy for the council
 - A clear fraud response plan to deal effectively with concerns when they arise.
4. Draft versions of these documents have been presented to the Audit Committee (3/12/14 & 1/4/15) and, following amendment for the feedback received, the documents were recommended to Policy Committee for adoption.
5. Should Policy Committee approve the attached, a communications plan will be devised to promote the policy and strategy both internally and externally to the council.

Other Options Considered

6. Continuing with the current counter-fraud policy and the lack of a single, coherent fraud response plan is an option. This would fail to address the weaknesses identified in the council's arrangements for deterring fraud and corruption.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To strengthen the council's stance against fraud and corruption.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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 revised counter-fraud and counter-corruption policy and strategy, and the fraud response plan, be adopted by the council.

Nigel Stevenson
Service Director – Finance & Procurement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (KK 20/05/15)

9. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 20/05/15)

10. 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.

- Self-assessment of the council's arrangements for countering fraud and corruption, compared with best practice

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All