



## **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 Audit Committee support for a revised counter-fraud and counter-corruption policy/strategy, along with a fraud response plan for the council.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. A first draft of these documents was presented to the meeting of the Audit Committee on 3 December 2014. A number of amendments were suggested and agreed, all of which have now been incorporated into the revised version attached to this report.
3. The changes made relate to the following:
  - Revisions to Appendix A of the counter-fraud strategy, to broaden out responsibility for implementing some of the actions listed; and
  - Revision of paragraph 3.8 of the response plan, to widen the reporting framework where there is suspicion of councillor involvement in fraudulent activity.

#### **Other Options Considered**

4. 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 in the current strategy, which were highlighted in the previous report to the Audit Committee.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

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

#### **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 revised counter-fraud and counter-corruption policy and strategy, and the fraud response plan, be recommended to Policy Committee for adoption.

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### **Constitutional Comments (KK 04/03/2015)**

7. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Audit Committee.

### **Financial Comments (JMB 05/03/2015)**

8. Countering fraud and corruption plays an important role in maximising the resources available for the provision of services in Nottinghamshire.

### **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