

TO GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
28TH JUNE 2017

FRAUD PREVENTION AND ANTI BRIBERY POLICIES
Head of Audit and Risk Management

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the Council's Fraud Prevention and Anti Bribery Policies.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the Fraud Prevention Policy at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To approve the Anti Bribery Policy at Appendix 2.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure the Council has effective policies in place to address the risk of fraud, bribery and corruption.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Fraud is a serious issue for all local authorities as it impacts on the honest majority and undermines the aims of authorities by diverting resources from legitimate activities. In *Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally- The Local Government Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy*, the result of collaboration by local authorities and key stakeholders from across the counter fraud landscape, fraud is estimated to cost local authorities £2.1 billion a year. *Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally* calls for a greater emphasis on fraud prevention as opposed to reactive measures to respond to fraud.
- 5.2 The Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy was reviewed and approved in 2014 and is now due for review. It is proposed to replace this with the new Fraud Prevention Policy as attached at Appendix 1. This has been developed with the assistance of external consultants who reviewed our existing Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.
- 5.3 Whilst the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy referred to bribery and corruption, the external consultants advised that the Council should have a separate policy specifically to cover this risk. The CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre also advises that local authorities raise awareness in this area. In response of this an Anti Bribery Policy has been developed and this is attached at Appendix 2.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report."

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 Nothing to add.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not applicable

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The recent figures from the Office of National Statistics show that an increasing amount of fraud is being reported to the police, Cifas and Financial Fraud Action UK. The risks are clear and Councils must ensure they embed a counter fraud culture at the heart of their organisation.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Corporate Management Team

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Corporate Management Team meeting 14th June 2017.

Background Papers

Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally- The Local Government Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy

Contact for further information

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