

For publication

Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Money Laundering Policy)

Meeting:	Standards and Audit Committee
Date:	28 th July 2021
Cabinet portfolio:	Governance
Directorate:	Finance
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present for consideration by the Standards and Audit Committee the Council's draft updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Money Laundering Policy) which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Standards and Audit Committee approve the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Money Laundering Policy) attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That the amended policy be advertised on the intranet to raise awareness amongst members and officers.

3.0 Reason for recommendation

3.1 To ensure that the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy is kept up to date and is effectively publicised which will reduce the risk of fraud.

4.0 Report details

4.1 One key element of effective financial governance is that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place in respect of fraud. The Council last

reviewed its Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Money Laundering Policy in 2018. It was agreed at the time that the Strategy should be periodically reviewed to ensure that it is kept up-to-date and remains relevant.

4.2 In line with good practice for all public bodies the Council should have in place an up to date Anti –Fraud and Corruption Strategy. The formal commitment to this strategy will serve to restate the Council’s zero tolerance of fraud and all forms of malpractice. The refresh of the strategy will also provide an opportunity to promote the key message to both Members and Employees.

4.3 The strategy that has been recommended for adoption has been reviewed and updated to reflect developing good practice. The changes made are highlighted in red on Appendix 1. There have been no regulatory or legislative changes so the updates made are to improve employee and Members understanding of the policy.

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

6.1 A strong stance against fraud and corruption will aid in ensuring that resources are utilised towards achieving the Council plan.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

7.1 Mitigating against the risk of fraud and corruption by the adoption of a Strategy will help to ensure that value for money is obtained and that finances are protected.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

8.1 Fraud, Bribery, Corruption and Money Laundering are all criminal activities. This strategy is intended to minimise the risk that the Council suffers as a result of such activity, or that the Council is unwittingly used to undertake or assist such activity.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

9.1 None

10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

10.1 The risk of fraud is significantly reduced if staff and Members are aware of the signs of fraud and understand how to report such concerns. By fostering a culture of zero tolerance towards fraud and corruption the risk is lessened.

11.0 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing

11.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct community and wellbeing impacts in relation to this report, a strong stance against fraud and corruption will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills

12.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct economy and skills impacts in relation to this report, a strong stance against fraud and corruption will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

13.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct climate change impacts in relation to this report, a strong stance against fraud and corruption will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

14.1 A preliminary Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken which has concluded that the updated strategy is not anticipated to have a disproportionate impact on any protected group.

Document information

Report author	
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Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
None	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Anti-Fraud Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Money Laundering)