

Title: Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement 2022/23

Lead Officer: Richard Barr

Portfolio Holder: Councillors Day and Hales

Wards of the District directly affected: None directly impacted

Summary

The Report presents an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement for review and approval by Members. The Statement provides a record of the Council's policies and objectives regarding countering fraud and corruption and is set out as Appendix A. There are a number of actions that are being undertaken in order to prevent, deter and detect fraud and corruption and these are set out in Appendix B.

Recommendations

- 1 That the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement be noted and approved.
 - 2 That the actions to prevent, deter and detect fraud and corruption be noted and approved.
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1 Background

- 1.1 In the mid-1990s local authorities were encouraged to state publicly and formally their stance on fraud and corruption and as part of that to formulate and adopt an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. Accordingly, in 1995 the Council initiated a Strategy. Since that time the Strategy has been subject to an annual review.
- 1.2 In recent years it has been felt that the term 'Statement' is a more appropriate term for the document as it is more of a statement of policies and objectives rather than a detailed description of how those policies and objectives are to be achieved. Such information is contained elsewhere, principally in Service Area Plans and Appraisal documents. The Statement is set out as Appendix A.
- 1.3 Keeping the Statement under review and comparing it with those of other local authorities helps to ensure that it remains relevant.
- 1.4 Appendix B provides a list of actions that are being undertaken to prevent, deter and detect fraud and corruption.
- 1.5 Undertaking the items set out in the action plan helps to maintain the overall control environment and raise awareness on fraud and corruption matters.

2 Alternative Options available to Committee

- 2.1 The report is not based on 'project appraisal' so this section is not applicable.

3 Consultation and Members' comments

- 3.1 Include any comments received in response to the consultation on the report.
No comments received.

4 Implications of the proposal

4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications

- 4.1.1 Include a summary of the legal or human rights implications of the proposal.
Not applicable.

4.2 Financial

- 4.2.1 Include a summary of the financial implications of the proposal
Not applicable.

4.3 Council Plan

4.3.1 External Impacts

People - Health, Homes, Communities

Services - Green, Clean, Safe

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment

Although there are no direct policy implications, counter fraud and corruption measures are an essential part of corporate governance and will be a major factor in shaping the Policy Framework and Council policies.

4.3.2 Internal Impacts

People - Effective Staff

Services - Maintain or Improve Services

Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term

Although there are no direct policy implications, counter fraud and corruption measures are an essential part of corporate governance and will be a major factor in shaping the Policy Framework and Council policies.

4.4 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

- 4.4.1 Counter fraud and corruption activities will comply with the Council's environmental and climate emergency objectives.

4.5 Analysis of the effects on Equality

- 4.5.1 Counter fraud and corruption activities will comply with equality obligations.

4.6 Data Protection

- 4.6.1 Counter fraud and corruption activities will comply with the Council's data protection objectives.

4.7 Health and Wellbeing

- 4.7.1 Counter fraud and corruption activities will comply with the Council's health and wellbeing objectives.

5 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 There is a financial risk to the Council in making payments to people that are not entitled to receive them. There are health and safety risks to staff associated with investigating suspicious claims. There are also reputational risks to the Council from such activities. These are detailed in the service's risk register, assessed, and managed through various mitigations and controls.

6 Conclusion/Reasons for the Recommendation

- 6.1 The report sets out the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement for the forthcoming year, providing a record of the Council's policies and objectives regarding countering fraud and corruption, together with actions that are being undertaken in order to prevent, deter and detect fraud and corruption.
- 6.2 The purpose of an audit committee is to provide to those charged with governance independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and annual governance processes. Counter-fraud and corruption measures form a key part of each of those elements, thus providing the required assurance to Members.

Background papers:

Please provide a list of any papers which you have referred to in compiling this report and are not published documents. This is a legal requirement.

You must also supply these when submitting the report.

All Papers referred to in this report are published documents.

Supporting documents:

See appendices.

Report Information Sheet

Committee/Date	Audit and Standards Committee – 30 August 2022	
Title of report	Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement 2022/23	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee *required	Date	Details of consultation / comments received
Ward Member(s)		
Portfolio Holders*	29/06/2022	
Financial Services		
Legal Services		
Other Services		
Chief Executive	29/06/2022	
Head of Service	29/06/2022	
Section 151 Officer	29/06/2022	
Monitoring Officer	29/06/2022	
Senior Leadership Team		
Other organisations		
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee/Council?		The former.
Contrary to Policy/Budget framework		No
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?		No
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?		No.
Accessibility Checked?		File/Info/Inspect Document/Check Accessibility