

 Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee 9 July 2019		Agenda Item No. 6
Title	Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement 2019-20	
For further information about this report please contact	Richard Barr Audit & Risk Manager Tel: (01926 456815) E Mail: richard.barr@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Not applicable	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee – 24 July 2018	
Background Papers	Previous reports to Committee	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	N/A: no direct service implications

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	19 June 2019	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	18 June 2019	Mike Snow
CMT		
Section 151 Officer	18 June 2019	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	19 June 2019	Andrew Jones
Finance	18 June 2019	As Section 151 Officer
Portfolio Holder(s)	19 June 2019	Cllrs Day and Hales
Consultation & Community Engagement		
None other than consultation with members and officers listed above.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1 **Summary**

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

2 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Members approve the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement.
- 2.2 That Members note the ongoing actions to prevent, deter and detect fraud and corruption.

3 **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Statement has been reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant given the way that the Council operates and it has been compared with a number of other strategies including those of the other Warwickshire councils. The Statement is broadly similar in content to the others examined and no changes are considered necessary as part of this review.

4 **Policy Framework**

4.1 **Fit for the Future (FFF)**

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy."

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/ productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels

Impacts of Proposal		
Although there are no direct policy implications the Statement is part of the Council's overall governance arrangements and will help to shape the policy framework and Council policies.		
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
Although there are no direct policy implications the Statement is part of the Council's overall governance arrangements and will help to shape the policy framework and Council policies.		

4.2 **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has a number of supporting Strategies but description of these is not relevant for the purposes of this report.

4.3 **Changes to Existing Policies**

This section is not applicable.

4.4 **Impact Assessments**

This section is not applicable

5 **Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 All of the Council's services and activities can be affected by fraud and corruption but approval of the action plan does not have any direct impact on Council budgets. Having measures in place to deter fraud and corruption helps to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

6 **Risks**

- 6.1 The risk of not approving the Statement for 2019-20 relates to the perception that the individual declarations and assertions contained within it are not supported by the Council's leadership. This could impact on the level of fraud that the organisation faces.

7 **Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1 This section is not applicable.

8 **Background**

- 8.1 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, a Strategy was adopted in 1995. Since that time the Strategy has been subject to an annual review.
- 8.2 It is now considered 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.
- 8.3 Keeping the Statement under review and comparing it with those of other local authorities ensures that it remains relevant.
- 8.4 The Statement relates to internal fraud only and not to any revenue-related frauds such as Council Tax Reduction, Single Person Discount and Business Rates that are investigated by the Corporate Fraud Team. There is a separate document for revenue frauds that is overseen by the Benefits and Fraud Manager.
- 8.5 Appendix B provides a list of ongoing actions that are being undertaken in order to prevent, deter and detect fraud and corruption.
- 8.6 Undertaking the items set out in the action plan helps to maintain the overall control environment and raise awareness on fraud and corruption matters.