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|  Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee 10 September 2013 | | Agenda Item 5 |
| Title | Anti Fraud and Corruption Action Plan | |
| For further information about this report please contact | John King Tel: (01926) 456816 E Mail: john.king@warwickdc.gov.uk | |
| Service Area | Finance | |
| 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| Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 | No |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 – 09 July 2013 Minute 26 | |
| Background Papers | Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy | |

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| 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 |

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| Officer/Councillor Approval | | |
| With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report author's relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s). | | |
| Officer Approval | Date | Name |
| Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive | 1 August 2013 | Chris Elliott |
| Head of Service | 6 August 2013 | Mike Snow |
| CMT | | |
| Section 151 Officer | 6 August 2013 | Mike Snow |
| Monitoring Officer | | |
| Finance | 6 August 2013 | Mike Snow |
| Portfolio Holder | 1 August 2013 | Councillor Andrew Mobbs |
| Consultation Undertaken | | |
| Not applicable | | |
| Final Decision? | | Yes |
| Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) | | |

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy progress report submitted to this committee on 9 July 2013 recommended a change to the established reporting procedure by dispensing with an action plan.
- 1.2 The committee wished to retain the action plan format and requested that an action plan for 2013/2014 be prepared and submitted for approval.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That members approve the action plan for 2013/2014 (Appendix A)

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The report presented to the July meeting of this committee included details of progress being made on the 2012/2013 action plan and recommended that for future years the action plan be dispensed with and instead details of Anti Fraud measures undertaken during the year would be included in the annual report.
- 3.2 The reasons for this were threefold. Firstly, with the resources available for Anti Fraud work, which are deemed appropriate to the level of risk faced, it was becoming increasingly difficult to compile an individual action plan every year and as a result it had a very repetitive and familiar content.
- 3.3 Secondly, most anti fraud and corruption work is undertaken as a matter of routine (in particular the carrying out of audits that have specific tests designed to evaluate controls and identify fraud) and by virtue of being 'embedded activity' was not included in the annual plan; as a result this gave a misleading picture in respect of the plan.
- 3.4 Thirdly, through the Midlands Districts Audit network and by making enquiries it was evident that a number of other authorities either only report to committee if their strategy needs updating or they report every three or four years.
- 3.5 There are risks, however, attached to not having an action plan and the committee felt the disadvantages from not having a plan outweighed any possible advantages and so wished to retain the annual action plan. Accordingly, one has been prepared and it is presented as part of this report.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 There are no alternatives to approving the updated action plan.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 Fraud and corruption can affect all of the council's service areas and activities, financial or otherwise, but approval of the action plan does not have a direct impact on any budget.

6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The council is committed to managing its services and resources openly, fairly and efficiently. The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy assists in delivering those aims.

7. **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 The Anti Fraud and Corruption Progress Report submitted to Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 9 July 2013.