

 Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee 26 July 2016		Agenda Item No. 4
Title	Anti Fraud & Corruption Progress Report 2015/16	
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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	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 – 30 June 2015 Minute 12	
Background Papers	Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy	

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 & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	N/A: no direct service implications

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	09 July 2016	Chris Elliott
Section 151 Officer	06 July 2016	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	06 July 2016	Andrew Jones
Human Resources		
Finance		As Section 151 Officer
Portfolio Holder	07 July 2016	Councillor Whiting
Consultation and 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 council's first Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy was approved in 1995 and since that time it has been subject to an annual review to ensure its currency and relevance. At the same time an action plan is prepared to maintain the strategy and to help deliver its objectives. A copy of the strategy is attached as Appendix C.
- 1.2 Keeping the strategy under review and completing the action plan contributes towards improving the overall control environment, raising awareness on fraud and corruption matters and the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.
- 1.3 The Strategy relates to corporate fraud only and not to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction.
- 1.4 This report updates members on the steps taken to deliver the 2015/2016 action plan and presents the 2016/2017 action plan for approval.

2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That members note the report and the progress made in implementing the 2015/2016 action plan. (Appendix A)
- 2.2 That members approve the action plan for 2016/2017. (Appendix B)

3 **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy has been reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant to the council's structure and organisation and that it bears comparison with strategies in place at other authorities. As a result of the review, which included some consultation, some minor changes were identified and some were suggested by Democratic Services. The changes have been made to the Strategy included as Appendix C.
- 3.2 The action plan for 2016/2017 needs to be approved. The action plan is based on the continuous improvement of the council's anti fraud and corruption measures. Progress against the 2015/2016 action plan needs to be considered.

4 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 This report is not concerned with recommending a particular option in preference to others so 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.

6 **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

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

7 **RISKS**

- 7.1 The risk of not approving an action plan for 2016/2017 relates to a perception that the action plan is not supported by the council's leadership. This could impact on the level of fraud in the community. Conversely no risks are evident from approving the action plan.

8. **BACKGROUND**

- 8.1 Increasing concerns about the level of fraud and corruption in the public sector in the mid 1990s prompted the Audit Commission to produce a series of reports entitled "Protecting the Public Purse". Prior to this time most local authorities had no formal stance on fraud and no policies, procedures and systems in place to deal with it. One of the recommendations in the first report concerned the creation of an anti fraud culture with the formal adoption of a policy stating an authority's zero tolerance attitude to fraud and corruption.
- 8.2 Warwick District Council was amongst the first local authorities to act on this recommendation and adopted a policy and strategy in September 1995. The policy and strategy was revised and replaced by the current version in September 2005. Minor amendments were approved in July 2011 and July 2013.
- 8.3 Following the demise of The Audit Commission on 31 March 2015 some of the staff transferred to The European Institute for Combatting Corruption And Fraud (TEICCAF) and they produced a report in July 2015 entitled Protecting the English Public Purse. The report was similar in format and content to the annual Audit Commission reports.