

Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee
7 July 2021

Title: Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement 2021/22
Lead Officer: Richard Barr
Portfolio Holders: Councillors Day and Noone
Public report / Confidential report: Public
Wards of the District directly affected: Not applicable

Contrary to the policy framework: No

Contrary to the budgetary framework: No

Key Decision: No

Included within the Forward Plan: Yes

Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken: Not applicable

Consultation & Community Engagement: Consultation with line management and SMT. None with community.

Final Decision: Yes.

Officer/Councillor Approval

Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	11/06/21	Chris Elliott/Andrew Jones
Head of Service	11/06/21	Mike Snow
CMT	11/06/21	Chris Elliott/Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	11/06/21	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	11/06/21	Andrew Jones
Finance	11/06/21	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	11/06/21	Councillors Day and Hales (deputising for Councillor Noone)

1 **Summary**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.

2 **Recommendations**

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

3 **Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 3.1 The recommendations help Members to fulfil their responsibilities for good governance.

4 **Policy Framework**

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

- 4.1.1 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.
- 4.1.2 The FFF Strategy has 3 strands, People, Services and Money, and each has an external and internal element to it, the details of which can be found [on the Council's website](#). The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

4.2 **FFF Strands**

4.2.1 **External impacts of proposal(s)**

People - Health, Homes, Communities

Services - Green, Clean, Safe

Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment

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.

4.2.2 **Internal impacts of the proposal(s)**

People - Effective Staff

Services - Maintain or Improve Services

Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term

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.

4.3 Supporting Strategies

4.3.1 Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies but direct reference to them is not necessary in considering the subject matter of this report.

4.4 Changes to Existing Policies

4.4.1 This section is not applicable to this report.

4.5 Impact Assessments

4.5.1 This section is not applicable to this report.

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 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 Options Considered

7.1 The report is not based on 'project appraisal' so 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

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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 Appendix B provides a list of actions that are being undertaken to prevent, deter and detect fraud and corruption.
- 8.5 Undertaking the items set out in the action plan helps to maintain the overall control environment and raise awareness on fraud and corruption matters.