

AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 May 2014



Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy

Report of Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources

Purpose of the Report

1. To request that the Committee review and approve the revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy. The updates to this policy will ensure it is fit for purpose and reflects current legislation as well as being fully aligned to all other Council policies.

Background

2. The current Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy was agreed in November 2010. The proposed amendments take into account the latest CIPFA guidance "Managing the Risk of Fraud" and the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010 which came into effect in 2011.
3. The revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy is attached as Appendix 2.
4. In order that all employees are aware of the policy and its content the intention is that the policy is communicated to all staff through 'Buzz Magazine' and other appropriate channels. Discussions have been held with the Internal Communications Manager with the formal communications to begin at the end of May following this policy and the revised Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing) being approved by the Audit Committee on 20 May 2014.
5. Furthermore, it is the intention for the Audit Committee to receive some initial training on fraud and the Bribery Act, in July 2014 and this statement will assist with strengthening controls in this area and raising organisational awareness of the key issues.

Key Points

6. The Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy is designed to prevent, detect and deter fraud and corruption and sets out what action will be taken against any attempted or actual fraudulent acts affecting the Council. It highlights the benefit of having effective internal controls and the role of the Internal Audit Service and joint working with other organisations and agencies in the approach to tackling fraud and corruption.
7. The Strategy also now sets out the Council's responsibilities for employees, councillors and other stakeholders in the prevention, deterrence and detection of bribery which is one of the most common forms of corruption. An important part of complying with the Bribery Act is for organisations to demonstrate robust anti-bribery policies and procedures and this strategy forms an overarching part of that approach.
8. Both documents include methods of reporting suspicions or concerns and, subject to approval, will be published on the Council's intranet and internet. The Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy is attached at Appendix 2.

Recommendation

9. Audit Committee approves the revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy attached at Appendix 2.

Contact:

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No direct implications as a result of this report.

Staffing

None

Risk

None

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None.

Human rights

None

Consultation

All Corporate Directors have been consulted.

Procurement

None

Disability Discrimination Act

None

Legal Implications

None