



**OPEN REPORT
GOVERNANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Governance & Resources Committee – 2 November 2023

ANTI-FRAUD BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY (including Anti- Money Laundering Policy)

Report of the Director of Resources

Report Author and Contact Details

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Wards Affected

District-wide

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Council's updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Anti - Money Laundering Policy) which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Recommendation

That the updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Anti - Money Laundering Policy), which is attached as Appendix A to this report, is approved.

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Anti- Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Anti- Money Laundering policy)

Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

Consideration of report by Council or other committee

Not required

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from Press or Public

No

Anti- Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Anti Money Laundering policy)

1. Background

- 1.1 One key element of effective financial governance is that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place in respect of fraud. The Council last reviewed its Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Anti - Money Laundering Policy in 2018. It was agreed at the time that the Strategy should be periodically reviewed to ensure that it is kept up-to-date and remains relevant.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 In line with good practice for all public bodies, the Council should have in place an up-to-date Anti –Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy. The formal commitment to this strategy will serve to restate the Council’s zero tolerance of fraud and all forms of malpractice. The refresh of the strategy will also provide an opportunity to promote the key message to both Members and Employees.
- 2.2 The strategy that has been recommended for adoption has been reviewed and updated to reflect developing good practice. A copy of the revised strategy can be seen at Appendix A to this report. There have been no regulatory or legislative changes since the last review. The changes made are to try and provide further clarity to Officers and Members as to the requirements of the strategy and guidance as to what may indicate potential money laundering activities.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 No public consultation is required.

5. Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 The updated Strategy is intended to be implemented immediately following approval by this Committee.

6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 The maintenance of an up-to-date Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy contributes to the Council’s core values of being open and transparent when making decisions and using public resources ethically and responsibly.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications of adopting the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Anti - Money Laundering Policy), and it is envisaged that any costs will be met within existing budgets.

8. Legal Advice and Implications

- 8.1 Fraud, Bribery, Corruption and Money Laundering are all criminal activities. This strategy is intended to minimise the risk that the Council suffers because of such activity, or that the Council is unwittingly used to undertake or assist such activity.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared and is shown at Appendix B. The EIA shows that the updated strategy is not anticipated to have a disproportionate impact on any protected group.

10. Climate Change Implications

- 10.1 None

11. Risk Management

- 11.1 The development and effective publication of a revised strategy will help to mitigate the risk of fraud and help ensure that the Council has effective measures in place to deter, prevent and detect fraud and corruption.
- 11.2 Failure to minimise fraud and corruption could lead to a significant risk of a critical public response and loss of credibility, thereby undermining the reputation of the Council.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from Statutory Officers:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	23/10/2023
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer	Karen Henriksen	23/10/2023
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Kerry France	23/10/2023