



**Governance and Audit  
Committee**

**Tuesday, 24 September 2024**

**Subject: Draft Counter Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy**

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

To present to Members with the Draft Counter  
Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members review and approve the updated Counter Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy.

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

The legal duties around fraud, bribery and corruption are detailed within the report.

### **Financial: FIN/27/24/PD**

There are no financial implications arising from this report, low risk investigations can be carried out by Human Resources, Medium Risk investigations by the Monitoring Officer and High Risk Investigations by the Section 151 Officer supported by external legal and/or specialist fraud investigation support. There is a necessary cost when engaging specialist external investigation resource.

**Staffing:** There are no staffing implications arising from this report. However, the report does make reference to key contacts for whistleblowing.

### **Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:**

There are no implications arising from this report.

### **Data Protection Implications:**

There are no implications arising from this report.

### **Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

No specific or direct climate related risks and opportunities.

### **Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

There are no implications arising from this report.

### **Health Implications:**

There are no implications arising from this report.

### **Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**

**Risk Assessment:** The Fraud Risk Assessment was provided to Members of the Governance and Audit Committee in July 2024.

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 This report recommends a revised Counter Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy. Our previous policy has been in place for in excess of seven years and following an external review of our fraud policies and processed a review of the existing policy was recommended.
- 1.2 The revised policy provides a clear framework for the Council to undertake necessary, legal and proportionate actions where evidence supports an investigation into an allegation of fraud and sets out that the Council will seek recovery of defrauded monies through all legal means.
- 1.3 The policy also sets out that the minimisation of losses to fraud and corruption is essential to ensure that public resources are used for their intended purpose of providing services to local residents.
- 1.4 The policy also sets out the Council's no tolerance stance to all forms of bribery, corruption and Fraud and references the policy framework which our staff, contractors, members and suppliers must comply with. Reporting mechanisms are also included.
- 1.5 Following the introduction of this revised policy a full staff and member training programme will be rolled out in addition to an update in our supplier terms and conditions.

## **2. Recommendation**

That Members:

Review and approve the updated Counter Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy.