

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
29 November 2021

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Framework

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

The purpose of this progress report is to present the recently updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Committee is asked to review and endorse the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Framework.

BACKGROUND:

1. This counter fraud strategy is aligned to 'Fighting Fraud & Corruption Locally' (FFCL), the Local Government Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy for the 2020s, which provides a blueprint for a tougher response to fraud and corruption perpetrated against local authorities. The previous two FFCL strategies focused upon pillars of activity, or strategic objectives, where the Council concentrated its counter-fraud efforts. These were 'acknowledge', 'prevent' and 'pursue'. The FFCL strategy 2020 has now been expanded to include two additional areas of activity that underpin tenets of those pillars; 'govern' and 'protect'.
2. 'Protect' is a new overarching responsibility to protect the public from fraud. 'Govern' is added as a new foundation of the Strategy, which sets out that those who are charged with governance, support the activity by ensuring that there are robust arrangements in place and that executive support exists to ensure anti-fraud, bribery and corruption measures are embedded throughout the organisation.
3. The amendments made to the SCC Strategy include the following:
 - Aligning the pillars of the strategy to FFCL (addition of Govern and Protect);
 - An updated table summarising the activities required to achieve the strategic objectives included within the Strategy document under the heading 'Action Plan';
 - An introductory statement reinforcing leadership support for counter fraud measures (in line with FFCL).

IMPLICATIONS:

4. Financial;
Equalities;

Risk management; and
Value for money

5. There are no direct implications (relating to finance, equalities, risk management or value for money) arising from this report.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

6. See Recommendations above.

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Sources/background papers: None.