

County Council Meeting – 8 February 2022

## REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

David Lewis (Chairman)  
 Victor Lewanski (Vice-Chairman)  
 Stephen Cooksey  
 Rebecca Paul  
 Joanne Sexton  
 Richard Tear

### Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Framework 2021-2024

1. The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Framework (Annex A) has been reviewed and agreed by the Audit and Governance Committee on 29 November 2021. Council to note that the Constitution will be updated.
2. The 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’.
3. ‘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.
4. 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).

#### Recommendation:

That Council **NOTES** that the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Framework has been reviewed and agreed by the Audit and Governance Committee on 29 November 2021 and that the Constitution would be updated with the new strategy.

**David Lewis (Cobham)**  
**Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee**  
**29 November 2021**

**Paul Evans**  
**Director of Law and Governance**  
**29 November 2021**