

Council Report

Audit Committee Meeting – 26th November 2019

Title

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy, Strategy and Self-assessment against CIPFA Code of Practice

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No.

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Judith Badger, Strategic Director Finance and Customer Services.

Report Author(s)

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Internal Audit, Finance and Customer Services

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Ward(s) Affected

All wards.

Report Summary

This report refers to a proposed update to the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy. The update follows an annual review process which is designed to ensure that the Policy and Strategy are up to date with current best practice and to take into account any changes to the Council's organisation structure. The CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption requires an annual report on performance against the Strategy. The self-assessment and resulting Action Plan are included in this report.

Recommendations

The Audit Committee is asked to:

- approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy, and
- note the proposed actions intended to strengthen the Council's fraud and corruption arrangements.

List of Appendices Included:-

Appendix A – Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy 2018

Appendix B – Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2018

Appendix C – Self-assessment against the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption

Background Papers

CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
No.

Council Approval Required
No.

Exempt from the Press and Public
No.

Title: Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy and Strategy

1. Background

- 1.1 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, like every Local Authority, has a duty to ensure that it safeguards the public money that it is responsible for. It expects the highest standards of conduct and integrity from all who have dealings with it including staff; members; contractors; volunteers and the public. The Council is committed to the elimination of fraud and corruption and to ensuring that all activities are conducted ethically; honestly and to the highest possible standard.
- 1.2 The Council's last update of its Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy was in September 2018. This report provides an update to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy. As required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, an assessment against the Strategy has been completed and the results are included in this report.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council's updated Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy is attached at **Appendix A** and the updated Strategy is included at **Appendix B**
- 2.2 The main changes to the previous versions are:
 - Reference to the new electronic system to declare interests, gifts and hospitality (Policy Para 4.8).
 - An update on the way to report a suspected wrongdoing under the Whistleblowing and Serious Misconduct Policy (Policy Para 5.3).
- 2.3 Attached at **Appendix C** is an update to the self-assessment against the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption. This leads to the action plan for maintaining / developing the Council's arrangements.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 This report is presented to enable the Audit Committee to fulfil its responsibility for ensuring the Council has appropriate arrangements in place for managing the risk of fraud.

4. Consultation on Proposal

- 4.1 This section is not applicable to this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Timescales for implementation of the actions are given in the Action Plan at Appendix C.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report. The budget for the Internal Audit function is contained within the budget for the Finance and Customer Services Directorate.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no immediate implications associated with the proposals.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no immediate implications associated with this report.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 Implementation of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy will contribute towards ensuring the Council operates and maintains a culture in which fraud and corruption are understood to be unacceptable.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 Failure to refresh the anti-fraud and corruption initiatives could expose the Council to increased risk of fraud and corruption as new and emerging risks appear.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

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