

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Audit Committee – 26 September 2024

Report Title

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy, Strategy and Self-assessment against Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Checklist

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 of Finance and Customer Services

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

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. There have been only minor updates to the Policy and Strategy since the last review. The Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally checklist has been used to review the council's arrangements against current best practice. The self-assessment against the checklist and resulting actions are included in this report.

Recommendations

That the Audit Committee is asked to:

1. Review and comment on the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.
2. Approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.
3. Note the actions taken to strengthen the Council's fraud and corruption arrangements.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix A – Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy 2024

Appendix B – Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2024

Appendix C – Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy from 2023 showing tracked changes

Appendix D – Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy from 2023 showing tracked changes

Appendix E – Self-assessment against the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Checklist

Background Papers

Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally. A strategy for the 2020's.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy, Strategy and Self assessment against the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Checklist

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 2023. This report provides an update to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy. In addition, in accordance with best practice, an annual review of the council's anti fraud and corruption arrangements has been undertaken. This year we have undertaken a self assessment against the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Checklist 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 contents have been reviewed with only minor changes having been made. The Policy shows the Council's aims and responsibilities while the Strategy shows how those aims are achieved. The tracked changes are shown in **Appendices C and D**. Attached at **Appendix E** is a self-assessment against the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Checklist which results in an 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 This section is not applicable to this report. The approval of the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy will be taken by an officer executive decision.

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 the 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 CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no direct CO₂ and Climate Change implications arising from the report.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 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.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 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.

Accountable Officer(s)

Louise Ivens, Head of Internal Audit

*Report Author: **Error! Reference source not found.***

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