

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF GOVERNANCE	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	26 MAY 2022	5
REVISED ANTI-FRAUD, BRIBERY & CORRUPTION STATEMENT & STRATEGY AND FRAUD RESPONSE PLAN REVIEW			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

This report comes before Members for approval of the revised Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Statement & Strategy and the Fraud Response Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to approve the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Statement & Strategy and the Fraud Response Plan as set out in Appendices A and B respectively.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy/Policy, Anti-Bribery Policy & Forensic Readiness Policy were last reviewed and approved by the Audit & Standards Committee in November 2020.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

BACKGROUND

1. In administering its responsibilities, Fylde Council has a duty to protect public funds and to raise awareness in relation to any potential threats that may affect the financial and/or reputational position of the organisation. The suite of counter fraud policies reinforces the Council's commitment to the prevention and detection of fraudulent activity. They also support the Local Code of Corporate Governance in promoting values for the Council and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

THE ANTI FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION STATEMENT & STRATEGY

2. The general aim of all the Council's counter fraud policies is to reduce the occurrence and impact of fraud, corruption and bribery on the organisation and provide an effective channel of communication for anyone who has concerns or suspicions of malpractice.
3. The Council has an Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Statement and Strategy. The document draws on particularly the guidance from the CIPFA Code of Practice – Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (2014) and the four key themes of the Local Government Fraud Strategy – Fighting Fraud & Corruption Locally (2020). It was last revised in November 2020
4. The themes comprise the following:
 - Acknowledge the responsibility of the governing body for countering fraud and corruption;
 - Identify the fraud and corruption risks;
 - Develop an appropriate counter fraud and corruption strategy;
 - Provide resources to implement the strategy;
 - Take action in response to fraud and corruption.

FRAUD RESPONSE PLAN

5. The Statement & Strategy is supported by the council's Fraud Response Plan. Like the Statement and Strategy, the plan was last updated in November 2020. This document has been revised to reflect the Council's current arrangements when a fraud is reported and sets out the responsibilities for those involved.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

6. Once the documents have been approved by the Committee, it is the intention to raise awareness of the revised policies by the completion of e-learning by officers.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report and contents of the attached appendices contribute to the protection of Council assets and public funds. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	This report and contents of the attached appendices are in line with prevailing legislation and current practice.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	This report and contents of the attached appendices are in line with prevailing legislation and current practice.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	This report and the contents of the attached appendices contribute to management of the Councils fraud risks.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Local Government Fraud Strategy – Fighting Fraud & Corruption Locally.	2020	www.cipfa.org/services/cipfa-solutions/fraud-and-corruption/fighting-fraud-and-corruption-locally
CIPFA Code of Practice – Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption	2014	www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/reports/code-of-practice-on-managing-the-risk-of-fraud-and-corruption

Attached documents

Appendix 1 – Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy 2022

Appendix 2 – Fraud Response Plan 2022