

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF SHARED INTERNAL AUDIT	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	16 JANUARY 2020	8
FIGHTING FRAUD AND CORRUPTION LOCALLY - THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The report summarises the results of an assessment carried out to compare the Council's current arrangements with the Fighting Fraud & Corruption Locally – The Local Government Counter Fraud & Corruption Strategy to ensure that the Council continues to operate in accordance with best practice.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the report.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Not applicable

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

BACKGROUND

1. Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally is a strategy for English local authorities that is the result of collaboration by local authorities and key stakeholders from across the counter fraud landscape. Its production and subsequent implementation is overseen by an independent board, which includes representation from key stakeholders. The board commissioned the drafting and publication of the strategy from the CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre.

REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE

2. The Strategy contains a checklist for local authorities to undertake to ascertain how their own arrangements meet the requirements contained within the Strategy.
3. This review has now been undertaken and the table at **Appendix A** lists the requirements of the Strategy and shows the extent to which they are already complied with or otherwise by the Council.
4. This exercise was undertaken in 2018 and identified 5 areas where the Council's current arrangements could be strengthened and details of these are provided below along with the action taken to date:

Requirement	Further Action Required (2018)	Action Taken
The local authority has made a proper assessment of its fraud and corruption risks, has an action plan to deal with them and regularly reports to its senior Board and its members.	The Corporate Fraud Team will develop the Business Plan for 2019/20 and report to Audit and Standards Committee. An annual report on the risk-based programme of fraud and corruption work will also be reported to Management and the Audit and Standards Committee.	The Corporate Fraud Team presented an Annual Report to the Audit & Standards Committee in June 2019. This contained details of both performance for 2018/19 and identified areas of review during 2019/20.
There is an annual report to the audit committee, or equivalent detailed assessment, to compare against FFCL 2016 and this checklist.	Completion and presentation of a report to compare against this checklist on an annual basis.	Report presented to Audit and Standards Committee in November 2018 and January 2020. On-going action – report to be presented annually.
Counter fraud staff are consulted to fraud proof new policies, strategies and initiatives across departments and this is reported upon to committee.	Counter fraud staff will be consulted to fraud proof new policies, strategies and initiatives across the Council as and when they are reviewed / updated.	A review of the policies in currently being undertaken in conjunction with the Corporate Fraud Manager
Contractors and third parties sign up to the whistle-blowing policy and there is evidence of this. There should be no discrimination against whistle-blowers.	Standard Contract for services will be reviewed and the requirement included. The need for contractors to be signed up to the Whistleblowing Policy to be also highlighted in the Guide for Buying for the Council.	Standard contract and the Guide for Buying for the Council have both been amended to reflect the requirements of the Strategy.
There is an annual fraud plan which is agreed by committee and reflects resources mapped to risks and arrangements for reporting outcomes. This plan covers all areas of the local authority's business and includes activities undertaken by contractors and third parties or voluntary sector activities.	The Corporate Fraud Team will develop the Business Plan for 2019/20 and report to Audit and Standards Committee.	See above

5. Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally is currently being updated and it is expected that this will incorporate an updated checklist. When this is published a further review will be undertaken.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising from this report
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	This report and the contents of the attached appendix demonstrate how the Council currently manages fraud risks.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Dawn Highton	dawn.highton@fylde.gov.uk	18 th November 2019

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
CIPFA – Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally	2016-2019	Internal Audit Office

Attached documents

Appendix A – Fighting Fraud and Corruption Checklist