

# DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	21 MAY 2024	6
<b>ANTI-FRAUD AND WHISTLEBLOWING POLICIES – PERIODIC REVIEW</b>			

## PUBLIC ITEM

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

### RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Ellie Gaunt.

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report presents updated versions of both the Counter-Fraud and Whistleblowing Policies. Both the Corporate Fraud and Internal Audit Teams have been consulted during the review process and this updates existing policy documents.

### RECOVERABILITY

This decision is not recoverable because it relates to a recommendation to the council or to any other committee or sub-committee of the council.

### RECOMMENDATION

To approve both the Counter-Fraud and Whistleblowing Policy revisions.

## REPORT

- The Corporate Governance Group which comprises the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, Head of Governance and Head of Internal Audit keeps a range of governance matters under review. As a part of its work, the Group identified the need for a periodic review of the anti-fraud and whistleblowing policies.

### Anti-Fraud Policy

The Council has zero tolerance towards fraud, corruption and abuse of position for personal gain, and is committed to securing effective methods of prevention, detection and investigation. The purpose of the Anti-Fraud Policy is to set out for both elected members and employees the main principles for countering fraud and corruption.

The Policy aims to provide:

- A definition of fraud and corruption.
- Its scope
- The council’s culture and stance against fraud and corruption.
- Standards of behaviour.
- How to go about raising concerns and reporting malpractice.

## Whistleblowing Policy

The Council is committed to fostering an open, transparent and safe working environment where stakeholders feel able to speak up. In line with that commitment, the council welcomes employees and others with serious concerns about any aspect of the Council's work to come forward and voice those concerns without fear of reprisals. The Whistleblowing Policy makes it clear how individuals are able to go about this and provides the council's commitment to listening to concerns.

The Policy aims to:

- encourage individuals to feel confident in raising serious concerns and to question and act upon concerns about practice that are made in the public interest.
  - provide avenues for individuals to raise concerns and receive feedback on any action taken.
  - allow an individual to take the matter further if they are dissatisfied with the Council's response; and
  - to reassure any whistleblower that they will be protected from reprisals or victimisation.
2. Both the Internal Audit and Fraud Teams have been consulted on the policy updates. It is also anticipated that both policies will be re-launched to raise awareness of their content once re-adopted.

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	

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	No implications
Legal	No implications
Community Safety	No implications
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
The Whistleblowing Policy is review periodically and was last updated in September 2016. The Anti-Fraud Policy was last updated in May 2022.

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
none		

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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Attached documents

Appendix 1 – Anti-Fraud Policy

Appendix 2 – Whistleblowing Policy