



INFORMATION NOTE

COUNTER FRAUD POLICIES REVIEW

1. The Audit and Standards Committee's terms of reference and work plan include monitoring the Council's main counter fraud policies, which are defined as the Anti-fraud & Corruption Policy and Strategy, and the Whistleblowing Policy. By implication, other counter fraud policies also fall to be reviewed by the committee including the Anti-Money Laundering Policy, Anti-Bribery Policy, Council Tax Reduction Scheme Sanctions Policy and the Forensic Readiness Policy.
2. All counter fraud policies were last approved by the committee in 2015. In order to ensure that an effective and up-to-date framework for countering fraud and corruption is maintained a further comprehensive review of all the following policies and strategies has been undertaken:
 - ♦ Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy
 - ♦ Anti-fraud and Corruption Strategy
 - ♦ Anti-Bribery Policy
 - ♦ Council Tax Reduction Scheme Sanctions Policy
 - ♦ Forensic Readiness Policy
3. All the above policies have been refreshed and updated to ensure they remain up-to-date and in line with prevailing legislation and current practice. There are no significant amendments requiring committee approval arising from this review.
4. The Money Laundering Regulations 2017 came into force on 26 June replacing the 2007 regulations. Although the changes are not fundamental they may have an effect on the Council's arrangements as established in the Anti-Money Laundering Policy. Consequently the responsible officer is attending training shortly and will advise on any necessary updates. The Audit and Standards Committee will be consulted as appropriate.
5. The Whistleblowing Policy is now maintained as part of the HR suite of policies. However, the policy was substantially upgraded in September 2016 to reflect both the new corporate arrangements and the Whistleblowing Commission's Code of Practice. In addition, a revised list of prescribed persons or bodies to which a whistleblowing issue may be referred was approved by the Audit and Standards Committee. There have been no further changes since last year.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

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