

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)	Audit Committee	8 November 2016	6

Annual Review of Council's Counter Fraud Policies – Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery, Whistleblowing, Anti-Money Laundering and Gifts and Hospitality and Registering Interests
--

1. Purpose of report

1.1 Approval of the Council's Counter Fraud Policies, namely:

- Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery;
- Anti-Money Laundering;
- Whistleblowing; and
- Gifts and Hospitality and Registering Interests.

2. Outcomes

2.1 The ability to demonstrate that the Council has arrangements in place that are designed to promote and ensure probity and propriety in the conduct of its business.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to approve the policy documents detailed above which are published on the Council's intranet.

4. Background

4.1 The Audit Committee work plan includes an annual review of the following policies:

Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery - originally approved by the Standards Committee in 2006. The policy was amended in November 2011 to make reference to the Bribery Act 2010, which came into effect on the 1 July 2011.

Anti-Money Laundering - first introduced in 2007 to comply with the new 'Money Laundering Regulations 2007 Act', which came into effect in December 2007.

Whistleblowing - originally agreed by the Standards Committee in 2004. The whistleblowing policy has been reviewed using the British Standards Institute (BSI) Whistleblowing Arrangements Code of Practice for 1998:2008 and the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (ERRA) which received royal assent on 25 April 2013. The ERRA includes major changes to employment law which will impact considerably on whistleblower protection. The policy has also been reviewed to ensure it is in line with the Public Concern At Work publication; The Whistleblowing Commission - Report on the effectiveness of existing arrangements for workplace whistleblowing in the UK, published in November 2013.

Gifts and Hospitality and Registering Interests – originally agreed by Audit Committee in February 2009.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** 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.
- 5.2** The Whistleblowing Policy has been amended to reflect which council officers can be contacted for advice and guidance following the recent re-structure.
- 5.3** The Anti-Money Laundering Policy and Procedures has been amended to reflect that there is a new Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO).
- 5.4** The Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy has been amended to reflect which officers may be contacted if they feel that the complaints procedure is inappropriate or unlikely to provide a satisfactory outcome.

The Policy has also been amended to reflect that the National Fraud Initiative is now run by the Cabinet Office rather than the Audit Commission.

- 5.5** The Gifts and Hospitality and Registering Interests Policy has been amended to reflect that there is a new Monitoring Officer.
- 5.6** All the policies can be viewed by clicking on the following link;

<http://intranet/services/Counter%20Fraud%20and%20Corruption/Pages/default.aspx>

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	There are no specific financial implications arising from the adoption of these counter-fraud policies.
Legal	The Councils counter-fraud policies assist in good governance and probity of Council actions and decision-making. Whilst there is no statutory requirement to comply with the money laundering regulations, the Audit Commission believes that Councils should comply with the spirit and principle of the legislation. An effective Anti-Money Laundering Policy and associated training will help to ensure that Council complies with the money Laundering Regulations, the Proceeds of Crime Act and similar legislation.

Other risks / implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Joanne Billington	01253 887372	joanne.billington@wyre.gov.uk	24.10.2016

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

List of appendices

None

arm/audit/cr/16/0811jb3