

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11 APRIL 2017

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Report Title	ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY STATEMENT AND STRATEGY (INCLUDING ANTI BRIBERY POLICY AND ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY) 2017-2019
Purpose of Report	To propose a refreshed Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy (including Anti Bribery Policy and Anti Money Laundering Policy) 2017-2019, to be effective from 1st April 2017.
Decision(s)	That the Committee RESOLVES to approve the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy (including Anti Bribery Policy and Anti Money Laundering Policy) 2017-2019.
Consultation and Feedback	Corporate Team, relevant professional disciplines within Stroud District Council (SDC) and Audit, Risk Assurance.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Non compliance with legislation/mandatory professional standards/Codes of Practice.</p> <p>Failure to fight fraud and implement an effective Anti Fraud and Corruption culture means that for every pound lost through fraud cannot be spent on providing public services.</p> <p>David Stanley, S 151 Officer Tel: 01453 754100 Email: david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>There are no specific legal implications.</p> <p>Karen Trickey, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email: karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Theresa Mortimer Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) (Chief Internal Auditor) Tel: 01453 754111 Email: theresa.mortimer@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	The adoption of the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy (including Anti Bribery Policy and Anti Money Laundering Policy) 2017-2019 will reaffirm an effective anti fraud and corruption culture within the Council.
Performance Management Follow	The implementation of the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy (including Anti Bribery

Up	Policy and Anti Money Laundering Policy) 2017-2019 will be monitored by Corporate Team and the Audit and Standards Committee.
Background Papers/ Appendices	Appendix A - Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy, Anti Bribery Policy and Anti Money Laundering Policy 2017 – 2019.

1.0 Background

Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally – The Local Government Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2016 – 2019

Fraud has a serious impact on all parts of the economy and costs the UK in the region of £193 billion per year. The cost of fraud to the public sector is estimated at £37.5 billion a year. This is money that could be used for local services.

Radical changes continue as to how local services are to be delivered. All of these changes are happening against a backdrop of depressed economic activity in which the general fraud risk tends to increase. Harder times tend to lead to an increased motivation to defraud by some clients, suppliers and employees who are feeling the squeeze.

These factors suggest that this is the time to review the approach to tackle fraud against the Council and reaffirm the arrangements to ensure that Stroud District Council (SDC) has a resilient response to the changed conditions.

2.0 Fraud Governance within SDC

The Council will not tolerate fraud and corruption in the administration of its responsibilities, whether internal or external and this is published in the Council's Financial Regulations (under Financial Regulation C.5 - Preventing Fraud and Corruption). SDC's Audit and Standards Committee's specific role regarding fraud is to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the arrangements in place for combating fraud and corruption.

In addition, where known, the Council's Chief Internal Auditor will ensure that the Audit and Standards Committee, the Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer are made aware of all irregularities and cases. External Audit also annually assesses the effectiveness of the Council's anti fraud and corruption arrangements.

3.0 Proposals

In order to further enhance our current arrangements, Internal Audit is proposing the attached revised Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy, Anti Bribery Policy and Anti Money Laundering Policy 2017 - 2019, which has been developed in line with revised national public sector codes of practice. Once approved, the strategy will be promoted via a communications plan, alongside the latest whistleblowing policy, within the Employee Handbook, to raise awareness and help us to further reduce the risk of fraud within SDC.