



Committee and date

Audit Committee

7 December 2009

9.15am

Item No

8

Public

ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNTER FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

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Summary

Members are asked to comment on the attached Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy which clearly outlines the Council's commitment to stand against all forms of Fraud and Corruption whether it is attempted on or from within the Council.

Recommendations

- A. Members are asked to comment on the Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy and support it as key part of the Council's stance against Fraud and Corruption.

Background

1. The Council has always set itself high standards for both members and officers in the operation and administration of the Council's affairs and has always dealt promptly with any allegations or suspicions of fraud and corruption. It has in place policies and procedures to prevent fraud and corruption, including a Speaking up about Wrongdoing policy and an overarching Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy.
2. The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy was originally approved by the County Council on 25 April 2003 and is contained in Part 5 of the Constitution. It was last reviewed and updated on 26th November 2008 when it was discussed by Audit Committee.
3. The strategy clearly identifies the Council's commitment to an effective Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy as part of its overall Corporate Governance arrangements. This strategy is designed to:

- Encourage prevention;
 - Promote detection; and
 - Identify a clear path for investigations.
4. The Council also expects that individuals, partners and organisations (e.g. suppliers/contractors) that it comes into contact with, will act towards the Council with integrity and without thought or actions involving fraud or corruption.
5. The Strategy is based on a series of comprehensive and inter-related procedures designed to frustrate any attempted fraudulent or corrupt act. These cover:
- Culture
 - Prevention
 - Detection and Investigation
 - Post Investigation
 - Training and Development
6. Best practice requires that all policies are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect current processes and procedures and reflect any changes to structures and responsibilities. The Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy has been reviewed and only minor changes have been made to update and improve its clarity; which under article 15, paragraph 15.3, the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services has authority to approve. For ease of identification any changes made have been identified in red. The “Speaking up about Wrongdoing Policy” is currently being reviewed and updated and will be reissued to all Shropshire Council employees, contractors and partners.
7. Members are asked to comment on the strategy attached as **Appendix A** and support it as a key part of the Council’s stance against fraud and corruption. It is important that the strategy is brought to the attention of all employees, members, partners and contractors.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

N/A

Risk Management Appraisal

The failure to promote an effective Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy could lead to possible fraud and irregularities not being detected.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

Cabinet Member

Keith Barrow, Leader of the Council (Brian Williams, Chairman of Audit Committee)

Local Member

All

Appendices

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy