

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 12th JULY 2022

Report of the Head of Strategic Support

Part A

ITEM 11 ANNUAL UPDATE RE THE ANTI- FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY AND WHISTLE - BLOWING POLICY

Purpose of Report

To provide information on the operation of the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy and Whistle-blowing Policy during 2021/22.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the information on the operation of the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy and the Whistle-blowing Policy.

Reason

To ensure the Committee is kept up to date on the operation of the policies, and instances where they have been applied.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Council is obliged under the Public Interest Disclosure Act to maintain a Whistle-blowing Policy, designed to encourage staff, elected Members, contractors and the public to raise legitimate concerns about wrong-doing within the Council without fear of reprisal. In line with its role of community leadership, and its responsibilities for the stewardship of public funds, the Council also has an Anti-fraud & Corruption Strategy setting out how cases of fraud and corruption will be prevented, and how suspicions will be dealt with.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

Updates will continue to be provided to the Committee on an annual basis.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications relating to this report

Risk Management

There are no risks arising from this report.

Background Papers: None

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Part B

1. Background

All new members of staff receive awareness training re the documents as part of their Induction process. The Whistle-blowing Policy is also provided to potential suppliers as part of the procurement process.

2. Policy Documents

The documents have been reviewed and no amendments have been identified.

3. Whistleblowing Notifications

No whistleblowing notifications were received during the year.

4. Fraud

There were no incidents of internal fraud identified during 2021/22.

Other incidents of identified fraud related to the COVID-19 business support grants. Pre-payment checks were undertaken, and these helped to prevent a number of fraudulent payments being made.

However, a few instances of fraudulent payments were identified during post-payment checks, as summarised below:

Total number of prevented incidents - fraud	8
Total value of prevented incidents – fraud	£34,001
Total number of detected incidents – fraud	3
Total value of detected incidents - fraud	£25,169