

Bolsover District Council

Audit Committee

14th December 2015

Draft Anti–Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Money Laundering Policy)

Report of the Executive Director Operations

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To enable Members of the Audit Committee to consider the proposed Anti Fraud Strategy and to raise any issues which they consider to be appropriate.

1 Report Details

1.1 The Audit Committee plays a key role in the governance arrangements of any local authority. As part of its role at Bolsover District Council it has a clear responsibility in the Council's Constitution for ensuring that the Council has appropriate financial governance arrangements in place. One key element of effective financial Governance is that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place in respect of Fraud including:

- A clear policy statement setting out the Council's values of a zero tolerance of fraud, corruption, bribery and related misuse of public funds. This policy statement needs to be reflected in the wider culture of the Council.
- Take steps to promote the prevention of fraud and related activities.
- Put procedures and resources in place which promote the detection of fraud.
- Ensure that measures are taken and remain in place which deters all those connected with the Council (Employees, Elected Members, Suppliers, local residents, Partnership organisations) from committing fraud, accepting or offering bribes, or any involvement in corruption.
- Establish appropriate procedures for ensuring effective investigation action where fraud is suspected.

1.2 The Council currently has in place an anti fraud policy previously agreed in the 2012. This document seeks to update that policy to reflect changes in good practice and it is to be launched as a Joint Strategy across the two Council's within the Strategic Alliance. As part of the consultation route it is being considered by Senior Management Team, and by the Strategic Alliance Joint Committee before being approved by Executive (BDC) and Cabinet (NEDDC). The launch will be supported by awareness sessions for both Officers and

Elected Members, while the consultation process around the Strategy will serve to improve awareness throughout both Council's. As part of this Consultation process the Audit Committee is requested to consider the draft Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy attached at Appendix 1 and to make any comments that it considers appropriate.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 To enable that the Audit Committee to consider the draft Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy attached at Appendix 1 and to make any comments that it considers appropriate.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 There are no issues arising directly from this report.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Given that the Council is committed to a policy of zero tolerance of Fraud it is important that we maintain an up to date policy which helps ensure that this policy commitment is secured in practice. Given this policy commitment there is no realistic alternative other than to agree an appropriate Strategy designed to set out how the Council will ensure that the impact of fraud and related activities upon the Council is minimised.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

Financial issues are covered in the Strategy which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

If the Council is not successful in operating in a manner which minimises fraud, corruption and related activity there is a significant risk of a critical public response which will undermine the reputation of the Council. Fraud and Corruption bring with them major issues of public credibility which could undermine the ability of the Council to continue to operate effectively.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

Fraud, Bribery, Corruption and Money Laundering are all criminal activities. This policy is intended to minimise the risk that this Council suffers as a result of such activity, or that the Council is unwittingly used to undertake or assist such activity.

There are no data protection issues arising directly out of this report.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

There are no issues arising directly from this report.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Audit Committee consider the Draft Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy attached at Appendix 1 and to make any comments that it considers appropriate.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	Not Directly
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	All

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Draft Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (including Money Laundering Policy).
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	

Report Author	Contact Number
Bryan Mason Executive Director Operations	01246 217154