

ANTI FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY

Purpose of the Report

1. The Council's Anti Fraud & Corruption strategy was last reviewed at the creation of the Unitary Authority. Following national and local changes it is proposed that the strategy is updated. This report highlights the key changes and practices proposed for Audit Committee to input before it is finalised.

Executive Summary

1. Wiltshire Council is committed to protecting public monies and we will work hard to prevent fraud and corruption from ever happening, but where it does occur we will continually seek out the perpetrators, prosecuting and seeking recovery.
2. This Strategy underpins the principles in the Council's Business Plan in seeking to ensure sound governance. In adopting this approach and culture the Strategy supports the outcomes in enabling greater engagement with the Community and partners, whilst protecting the public purse.
3. The Strategy focuses on three areas, how we:
 - Acknowledge and recognise fraud & corruption
 - Prevent
 - Pursue
4. The strategy also addresses how it ties into other strategies and the Behaviours Framework, and has an action plan for implementation.
5. All of this is being driven then through a 'corporate' fraud team which was established mid 2014. This is a new approach for Wiltshire and one recognised as best and growing practice in local government.
6. We are developing a communication strategy which will set out our detailed approach but this will be underpinned by our commitment to always be proactive in promoting our culture and approach to Fraud and Corruption, both internally to the Council's staff and councillors, but also externally to the public, businesses and partners

Proposal

7. Members are asked to note the new Fraud & Corruption Strategy, and make suggestions for any additions, deletions or clarity to inform Council's consideration and adoption of the Strategy.

Reasons for Proposals

8. To ensure an effective and strong control environment.

Michael Hudson
Associate Director, Finance, S.151 Officer

Report author: Michael Hudson
01225 713601, michael.hudson@wiltshire.gov.uk

Unpublished documents relied upon in the preparation of this Report:

- Current Fraud & Corruption Strategy – found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/howthecouncilworks/plansstrategiespolicies/strategyfraud.htm>
- National Fraud & Corruption Strategy – found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-fraud-strategy>

Appendices: A – Proposed Wiltshire Council Fraud & Corruption Strategy