

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**AUDIT COMMITTEE 25th JUNE 2013
COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2013**

**CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION POLICY – 2012/13 ANNUAL REPORT AND
POLICY UPDATE**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

1.1 For the Audit Committee to:

- a) consider the 2012/13 Annual Report on Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption activity; and
- b) agree an updated policy and to recommend its adoption by the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Audit Committee notes the 2012/13 Annual Report on Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption activity.

2.2 That the Audit Committee agrees the updated policy attached as Appendix B and recommend its adoption by the Council.

3. SUMMARY

3.1 The Council is committed to high standards of Corporate Governance and has a set of effective procedures in place to support this. These procedures include the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy.

3.2 The terms of reference of the Audit Committee include:
“15. To approve the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy for adoption by the Council and to monitor its operation. The policy will be reviewed it at least once every two years.”

3.3 This report includes information in respect to the fifth annual report setting out the Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption activity for 2012/13 to enable the Audit Committee to monitor the policies operation. In addition attached as Appendix B is an updated policy for members to agree and recommend on for adoption by the Council.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Audit Committee 28th July 2009 – Annual Report 2008/09
- Audit Committee 27th July 2010 – Annual Report 2009/10
- Audit Committee 22nd March 2011 – Update of Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy 2011
- Audit Committee 20th September 2011 – Annual Report 2010/11
- Audit Committee 26th June 2012 – Annual Report 2011/12

5. ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION POLICY UPDATE

5.1 The current Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy was reviewed, updated and agreed by the Audit Committee on 22nd March 2011 and was approved by Council on 23rd June 2011. The terms of reference of this Committee set out that it should be reviewed every 2 years and therefore the results of this review are presented to this committee as Appendix B for comment and agreement. The agreed version will be recommended to the Council for adoption by the Council.

5.2 The minimal changes made to the policy reflect:

- a) Organisational change and restructures;
- b) The Co-operative values;
- c) Changes to the External audit arrangements; and
- d) Updates to the Constitution

6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

AREA	COMMENTS
Equal Opportunities	The Anti-Fraud & Corruption policy operates within Equalities legislation and the Council's associated policies. Any investigations follow legal requirements and proper procedures to ensure that equality and diversity requirements are met.
Environmental Impact	None
Legal Implications	Regulatory and enforcement teams throughout the Council (including internal audit) have powers and responsibilities set out in statute and regulation to detect, investigate and take enforcement action in relation to fraud and corruption. Such roles and responsibilities also include information sharing which is referred to in this report. When undertaking these actions all relevant statutory requirements need to be adhered to.
Links with Corporate Priorities	The policy supports all Corporate Priorities and good Corporate Governance demonstrating the Council's desire to ensure sound conduct and ethical procedures for all those associated with the Council and service delivery. Monitoring the policy provides the opportunity to identify if there are any changes required or additional areas of activity.
Financial Implications	None as all current activity is met from within existing budgets.
Opportunities and Risks	Having a policy which sets out the Council's anti-fraud and corruption culture and associated procedures assists in the management of the risk of fraud and corruption against the Council.
Ward Implications	Borough wide implications.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy 2011
Speak Up Policy 2012
Benefits Counter Fraud and Sanctions Policy 2010
Audit Commission requirements for the National Fraud Initiative
Trading Standards & Licensing Legislation

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