

MEETING:	Audit and governance committee
MEETING DATE:	19 March 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption policy 2015
REPORT BY:	Chief financial officer and internal audit – South West Audit Partnership

Classification

Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Purpose

To present to the Audit and Governance Committee the revised Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy for approval.

Recommendation

That

- (a) the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy attached at appendix A be approved.**

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options as this is a requirement of the audit and governance code.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The audit and governance code requires this committee to approve the council's anti-fraud and corruption policies and to review them on a biennial basis.

Key Considerations

- 3 The policy summarises the culture of the council with regard to its opposition to fraud and corruption.
- 4 The policy also sets out clearly to members, employees, contractors, the council's partners, and the public:
 - The council's commitment to tackling fraud, bribery and corruption
 - Its actions to promote the prevention of fraud, bribery and corruption
 - The responsibility of members and employees in minimising the risk of fraud and reporting any suspicions they may have
- 5 The draft policy was presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in November for comment. Reflecting the views of the committee, the draft policy has been amended to so that the reporting section is at the front of the policy as well as in the main body of the report.

Community Impact

- 6 A robust and transparent anti-fraud bribery and corruption policy will support achievement of the councils corporate plan by helping to ensure that finances are managed effectively to secure value for money and deliver a balanced budget..

Equality and Human Rights

- 7 The report does not impact on this area.

Financial Implications

- 8 There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

- 9 There are no legal implications as the report is seeking comments on the draft.

Risk Management

- 10 The committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the council's anti-fraud, bribery and corruption policies; if this is not done there is the risk that policies will not be sufficient and robust in addressing fraud.

Consultees

- 11 The chief financial officer (section 151 officer) was consulted in the drafting of this policy.

Appendices

Appendix A – Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy

Background Papers

- None identified.