

24 OCTOBER 2019

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

**REVIEW OF COUNTER FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY STATEMENT, STRATEGY AND GUIDANCE NOTES AND WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

**EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None.

**PURPOSE**

To seek members' approval to the refreshed counter fraud and corruption policy statement, strategy and guidance notes and whistleblowing policy.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee approves the refreshed counter fraud and corruption policy statement, strategy and guidance notes and whistleblowing policy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Council is committed to high standards of corporate governance which includes having strong arrangements for counter fraud and corruption. The counter fraud and corruption policy statement, strategy and guidance notes and whistleblowing policy form part of the suite of counter fraud and corruption policies and are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are compliant with current legislation and best practice.

The documents were last reviewed in October 2018.

The refreshed counter fraud and corruption policy statement, strategy and guidance notes, including track changes, is detailed at **Appendix 1**. Key changes include:

- staffing updates;
- removal of the long list of related policies at para 1.1, in order to future proof the document from subsequent policy changes;
- an update on the latest industry definitions of bribery and corruption;
- change in policy review frequency from annual to 3 yearly; and
- removal of the counter fraud work plan at Appendix 5 to avoid duplication as it is held and monitored separately through Pentana.

The refreshed whistleblowing policy is detailed at **Appendix 2**. Only staffing changes and review frequency (from annually to 3 yearly in line with the above), have needed to be updated at this refresh.

Following members' approval of these policies, they will be re-launched on the Council's intranet, together with a review of training needs.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no resource implications associated with this report.

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

This refresh includes a review of current related legislation affecting the policies and changes have been made where necessary. Having strong counter fraud and corruption arrangements mitigates the Council's fraud risk.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

None.

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

Rebecca Neill, Head of Audit and Governance & Monitoring Officer

[Rebecca-neill@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca-neill@tamworth.gov.uk)

Ext: 234

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1 – Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement, Strategy and Guidance Notes.**

**Appendix 2 – Whistleblowing Policy**