

Subject:	Counter Fraud Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	10 March 2020		
Report of:	Executive Director, Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Simon White	Tel: 020 8541 9191
	Email:	simon.white@surreycc.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide details of the main changes and rationale for updating and amending the Council's Counter Fraud Strategy (attached to this report as Appendix A).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approve the Counter Fraud Strategy.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The current Counter Fraud Strategy was approved by the Audit and Standards Committee on June 2016.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 As with other organisations the Council is at risk of losses through fraud, bribery and corruption. The Council recognises that as well as causing financial loss such activities are also detrimental to the provision of services and damaging to the reputation of the Council and residents confidence in the Council. To safeguard itself the Council is committed to making sure that the opportunity for fraud, bribery and corruption is reduced to the lowest possible risk within existing resources.
- 4.2 This strategy outlines the Council's commitment and approach to tackling fraud, bribery and corruption and applies to all those who work for, or interact with the Council including employees, Members, contractors, suppliers and service users. It aims to help embed an anti-fraud culture within the Council and provides clear guidance on the roles and responsibilities of individuals.
- 4.3 In line with good practice the Council regularly assesses its exposure to fraud risk and ensures that its counter fraud arrangements and the resources allocated to managing the risks, are effective and aligned to best practice. As a result the Strategy has been updated to ensure that it is current and reflects sector guidance.

4.4 The amendments made include the following:

- Post titles and contact details of senior management have been updated;
- Increased emphasis of the role of culture in protecting public interest;
- References to the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 have been replaced by the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017; and
- In line with new money laundering regulations, guidance on the 'Identification of clients' has been replaced with a risk based approach to 'Customer due diligence' within the Anti-Money Laundering Policy.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 None.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Committee is asked to endorse the Counter Fraud Strategy.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Counter Fraud Strategy contributes to strong financial governance, protecting the council's overall financial position. The counter fraud strategy is expected to be delivered within the existing resources of the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud team.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 18/02/20

Legal Implications:

7.2 'Fighting Fraud Locally: The Local Government Fraud Strategy' emphasises the importance of clear and robust anti-fraud arrangements, just as the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 emphasises the key role of counter fraud controls (and transparency in relation to those controls) in safeguarding the public purse. The Council is required to report on its counter fraud work, and this report is a key part of its financial governance arrangements.

Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson

Date: 19/02/20

Equalities Implications:

7.3 There are no direct equalities implications.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 There are no direct sustainability implications.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. BHCC Counter Fraud Strategy

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. BHCC Counter Fraud Strategy

