

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

FIGHTING FRAUD AND CORRUPTION LOCALLY

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

AGENDA ITEM: 10.3

Reason for this Report

1. The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference requires that:
 - Members consider any anti-fraud strategies, policies and procedures.
 - Members receive reports on fraud prevention and detection initiatives and updates to any related policies and strategies.

Background

2. This report has been prepared to bring to the attention of the Audit Committee Members, three documents published by CIPFA and an Executive Summary in respect of Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally.
3. Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally is a strategy for English local authorities, that is the result of collaboration by local authorities and key stakeholders from across the counter fraud landscape.
4. The strategy is the definitive guide for council leaders, chief executives, finance directors and all those with governance responsibilities and includes practical steps for fighting fraud, shares best practice and brings clarity to the changing anti-fraud and corruption landscape.
5. There is currently no Welsh strategy to measure against, therefore, the Council will measure its effectiveness against the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally strategy, and will also be implementing its guidance and best practice.

Issues

6. Local authorities face a significant fraud challenge. Fraud costs local authorities an estimated £2.1bn a year.

4.CTC.CS.018	Issue 1	Date: Jan 13	Process Owner: Committee & Member Services Manager	Authorised: Deputy Committee & Member Services Manager	Page 1 of 2
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7. Fraudsters are constantly revising and sharpening their techniques and local authorities need to do the same. There is a clear need for a tougher stance. This includes tackling cross boundary and organised fraud and corruption attempts, as well as addressing new risks.

Legal Implications

8. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

10. That the Committee note the report and the attached appendices.

Christine Salter
Corporate Director, Resources

Date:

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix A – Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally – Executive Summary

Appendix B – The local Government Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2016-19

Appendix C – Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally – The Companion 2016-19

Appendix D – Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally – 2016/19 Checklist

4.CTC.CS.018	Issue 1	Date: Jan 13	Process Owner: Committee & Member Services Manager	Authorised: Deputy Committee & Member Services Manager	Page 2 of 2
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