

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2023

APPROVAL OF THE COUNTER FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

1.1 This report presents the revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy for approval.

2. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The Council fully recognises its responsibility for the proper administration of its assets and public funds and is committed to maintaining an ethical culture which does not and will not tolerate any form of fraud and corruption. This policy is a key element of the Council's overall corporate governance arrangements. The Policy will directly support the achievement of the Council's Priorities.
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	The Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy is not considered to have any adverse implications to equal opportunities and diversity policies.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	3 October 2023	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	Yes	There are no direct financial implications. The current costs of the Audit Service are contained within the Medium Term Financial Strategy as are the costs of insurance covers to mitigate the cost of any financial loss arising from the failure of internal controls.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Policy will directly support the Council in complying with statutory responsibilities.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	Internal audit objectively examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of the control environment,

		including potential fraudulent activity, as a contribution to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of resources. Internal Audit will continue to align its work with the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers (as appropriate).
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	No impact.

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 This report outlines the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy, which is attached as Appendix 1 for approval.
- 3.2 The objective of the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy is to confirm that in administering its aims and responsibilities the Council is totally committed to deterring fraud and corruption, whether it is attempted on or from within the Council.
- 3.3 As stated at Section 2.1. of Appendix 1 the key objectives of the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy is to:
- Increase awareness of the counter fraud responsibilities at all levels within and outside the Council;
 - Further embed and support the effective management of fraud risk within the Council;
 - Support counter fraud activities actors the Council; and
 - Minimise the likelihood and extend of loss through fraud and corruption.
- 3.4 The Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy defines and categorises fraud and corruption activities and clarifies the actions and accountabilities within the Council for the management and mitigation of fraud, bribery and theft risks.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 4.1 None identified

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 Not Applicable

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To approve the revised Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy.

Report prepared by: *Lorraine Fowkes, Corporate Director of Governance*