

**Report of the Head of Internal Audit,  
Anti-Fraud and Assurance**

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

**CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY 2021 – 2024**

**1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 This report presents the proposed Corporate Anti-Fraud Strategy for the Committee's consideration and comment.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers and comments on the proposed Corporate Anti-Fraud Strategy to be assured that it provides the appropriate framework to direct anti-fraud activity over the next 12 months.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The third Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy (FFCL), which is produced by 'local government for local government', was published in 2020. This is prepared through CIFAS, a non-for-profit organisation originally created in the 1980s as the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance Service, but now exists to protect its members and wider society from fraud and fraud-related crime by sharing fraud intelligence and building close and productive partnerships across the private, public, the third sector and law enforcement.
- 3.2 This FFCL Strategy has been used to frame our anti-fraud strategy adopting the structure across the recommended 5 pillars as included in the national strategy document.

***Govern***

*Having robust arrangements and executive support to ensure anti-fraud, bribery and corruption measures are embedded throughout the organisation. Having a holistic approach to tackling fraud is part of good governance.*

***Acknowledge***

*Acknowledging and understanding fraud risks and committing support and resource to tackling fraud in order to maintain a robust anti-fraud response.*

***Prevent***

*Preventing and detecting more fraud by making better use of information and technology, enhancing fraud controls and processes and developing a more effective anti-fraud culture.*

### **Pursue**

*Punishing fraudsters and recovering losses by prioritising the use of civil sanctions, developing capability and capacity to investigate fraudsters and developing a more collaborative and supportive local enforcement response.*

*Local authorities have achieved success by following this approach; however, they now need to respond to an increased threat and protect themselves and the community.*

*The second new area that has appeared during the research recognises the increased risks to victims and the local community:*

### **Protect**

*Protecting against serious and organised crime, protecting individuals from becoming victims of crime and protecting against the harm that fraud can do to the community.*

*For a local authority this will also cover protecting public funds, protecting its organisation from fraud and cybercrime and protecting itself from future frauds.*

## **4. Delivering the Corporate Anti-Fraud Strategy**

- 4.1 A detailed operational plan has been prepared alongside the Internal Audit plan for 2023/24 which will be presented to the Committee at this meeting. The resources of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team are at full strength after the restructure in 2022/23 that added an additional post.

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