

Report of the Head of Internal Audit and Corporate Anti-Fraud

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 18th January 2017

CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICIES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present draft versions of the revised Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy together with a draft version of the Council's new Corporate Anti-Bribery Policy.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Audit Committee consider the policies, make any necessary observations and suggested amendments and commend for Cabinet approval.**

3. Background Information

- 3.1 Barnsley Council is committed to ensuring that the people of the Borough can have confidence that the affairs of the Council are conducted in accordance with the highest standards of probity and accountability. The Council is committed to combating fraud and corruption wherever it may arise and has previously approved a Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and a Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.
- 3.2 Following the creation of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team within Internal Audit Services a number of key counter fraud policies and procedures were identified as requiring revision. Two of these policies - Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy have now been reviewed and revised and a new policy, written to specifically meet the Council's legal and regulatory obligations in relation to anti-bribery legislation, has been developed.

4. THE FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (Appendix 1) outlines the Council's overall approach to combating fraud, corruption and illegal activity. Below this there are specific policies including a revised Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy (Appendix 2) and a new Corporate Anti-Bribery Policy (Appendix 3).
- 4.2 A number of other corporate counter fraud policies including the Fraud Response Plan, Prosecutions Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Anti-Money Laundering Policy are also being reviewed. These revised draft policies will be presented to the Audit Committee in due course.
- 4.3 The framework of counter fraud policies address specific areas of risk and clearly state the Council's zero tolerance approach to fraud and illegal activity, as well as

providing mechanisms through which officers can use to raise concerns of wrongdoing or fraudulent activity. Each policy is supported by procedural guidance which sets out the responsibilities and expectations for staff including the specific actions which they must follow to enable the Council to demonstrate good governance and comply with its legal obligations.

- 4.4 The Internal Audit Services Corporate Anti-Fraud Team carries out both proactive fraud prevention and detection work and conducts investigations in response to allegations of fraud. The Head of Internal Audit and Corporate Anti-Fraud reports on these activities to the Audit Committee through periodic update reports and an annual fraud report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

6. Risk Considerations

- 6.1 A corporate counter fraud framework sets a high level commitment to ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place for mitigating the risk of fraud and corruption within the Council.

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