

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Audit Committee
Date:	5 December 2013
Title:	Anti Fraud & Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy
Reference:	5427
Report From:	Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Hampshire County Council has a duty to protect the public funds under its control against fraud and corruption. In administering its responsibilities the County Council is committed to the highest standards of accountability, openness and integrity through ensuring adherence to legal requirements and the rules, policies and procedures that promote the principles of good governance.
- 1.2. The updated Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy (Appendix 1) is presented to Members in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Committee's terms of reference, and in particular their *'consideration of arrangements for anti fraud and corruption'*.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The County Council's Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy set out for Members and employees of the County Council the key principles and approach to countering fraud and corruption.
- 2.2. The Strategy document sets out the key principles in minimising the risk of fraud or corruption and defines the roles and responsibilities of members and officers in the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.
- 2.3. The Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy were last presented to the Audit Committee in December 2009. In accordance with good practice, the Policy Statement and Strategy has been subject to annual review to reflect the latest professional guidance and legislative change.

2.4. To ensure the Audit Committee's continued awareness and engagement in corporate arrangements for anti fraud and corruption, the revised policy statement and strategy are enclosed (Appendix 1). Changes to the revised Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy to that previously reported include:

- Legislative updates – Bribery Act 2010, Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (Public Sector Internal Audit Standards);
- Professional guidance – Managing the Risk of Fraud (CIPFA)' Local Government Fraud Strategy – Fighting Fraud Locally (NFA);
- Enhanced emphasis – recruitment, officer responsibility / ownership and sanctions;
- Focus – prevention and deterrence; and
- Visible endorsement by the Chief Executive and Leader

3. Conclusion

3.1. The County Council believes strongly in the honesty and integrity of its Members and employees and has achieved a reputation for maintaining effective systems of control. The County Council will not tolerate fraud, corruption or other irregularities regardless of the perpetrator. The County Council is therefore determined to prevent, deter and detect all forms of fraud and corruption committed against it and to take appropriate action where fraud or corruption is detected. The attached Policy Statement and Strategy provides the framework within which the County Council will work to maintain their commitment to deter and combat fraud and corruption.

4. Recommendation(s)

4.1. To approve the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy as attached.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	
Sight of and approval of the Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement and Strategy assists in the effective discharge of the Audit Committees terms of reference and in particular their 'consideration of arrangements for anti fraud and corruption'.	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Corporate Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy	<u>Reference</u> 1130	<u>Date</u> 22 Dec 2009
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u> Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. Equality objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals within this report.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. The proposals in this report are not considered to have any direct impact on the prevention of crime, however the existence of the anti fraud and corruption strategy and associated policies are designed to minimise fraud against the County Council.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No specific changes

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No specific proposals affecting adaptation to climate change