

# **Somerset West and Taunton Council**

## **Executive – 27 April 2021**

### **Anti-Fraud Framework**

**This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Smith-Roberts**

**Report Author: Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager and Monitoring Officer**

#### **1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To present the Committee with the Anti-Fraud Framework, which consists of:

- The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy (Annex 1)
- Anti-Bribery Policy (Annex 2)
- Anti-Money Laundering Policy (Annex 3)
- Whistleblowing Policy (Annex 4)

1.2 To present the Committee with the confidential report on the provision of Counter Fraud and Error Services from Powys (Confidential Annex 5)

#### **2 Recommendations**

2.1 That the Executive approve the Anti-Fraud Framework and associated documents (listed as Annex 1-4 above).

2.2 The Executive note the confidential report on the Counter Fraud and Error Services (Confidential Annex 5)

#### **3 Risk Assessment**

3.1 Failure to have an appropriate Anti-Fraud Framework and these policies in place, the Council is at risk of not detecting fraud, corruption or financial irregularities. This could result in significant loss to the Council and damage its reputation.

#### **4 Background and Full details of the Report**

- 4.1 It is essential to have these policies in place to promote good governance and to ensure that the public services provided by the Council are delivered with both confidence and credibility.
- 4.2 The Council is committed to the principles of effective corporate governance as set out in the guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), entitled 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016)'.
- 4.3 By having this framework of policies, the Council underpins the core principles of:
- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
  - Developing the entity's capacity including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
  - Managing risk and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
  - Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.
- 4.4 It is therefore recommended that the strategy and policies outlined in section 2.1 are approved, to ensure that the Council has a robust Anti-fraud framework in place.

## **5 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities**

- 5.1 Having effective and efficient governance arrangements and a robust Anti-Fraud framework is a fundamental element of being a 'well managed' council

## **6 Finance / Resource Implications**

- 6.1 None arising from this report - Not having these documents could result in not detecting fraud, corruption or financial irregularities, which could result in a loss to the Council

## **7 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 None arising from this report: Any legal requirements are embedded in the policies no new or additional implications arise

## **8 Environmental Impact Implications**

- 8.1 None arising from this report

## **9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications**

- 9.1 None arising from this report

## **10 Equality and Diversity Implications**

10.1 None arising from this report

## **11 Social Value Implications**

11.1 None arising from this report

## **12 Partnership Implications**

12.1 None arising from this report

## **13 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

13.1 None arising from this report

## **14 Asset Management Implications**

14.1 None arising from this report

## **15 Data Protection Implications**

15.1 None arising from this report

## **16 Consultation Implications**

16.1 None arising from this report

**Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Comments / Recommendation(s) (if any)** – The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee did not have any comments or amendments to the recommendations in this report.

### **Democratic Path:**

- **Audit, Governance and Standards Committee – Yes**
- **Cabinet/Executive – Yes**
- **Full Council – No**

**Reporting Frequency: Annually**

### **List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)**

Annex 1	Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy
Annex 2	Anti-Bribery Policy
Annex 3	Anti-Money Laundering Policy

Annex 4	Whistleblowing Policy
Annex 5 (Confidential)	Confidential Report on the provision of Counter Fraud and Error Services from Powys

### **Contact Officers**

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