

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally – Strategy for 2016-2019 (Update)

14 September 2016

Report of the Internal Audit & Assurance Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of the outcome of a self-assessment against the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy and the resulting plan of action.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be noted

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At its meeting on 29th June 2016 the Audit Committee endorsed the Council's adoption of the national Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) Strategy as a guide to the Council's continued development of its counter fraud and corruption arrangements.

1.2 As a preliminary action in connection with the strategy, the Internal Audit and Assurance Manager advised the Committee that a self-assessment would be undertaken against a checklist included in the FFCL Strategy and would be reported back to Members.

2.0 Report

2.1 The outcome of the self-assessment, setting out potential areas for development and planned actions is attached at Appendix A.

2.2 Overall, the exercise has been very positive in terms of confirming the commitment being shown through the Council's counter fraud arrangements and in serving to identify areas in which further improvements may be possible.

2.3 It is judged that the actions identified can be implemented within current budgets and staffing resources. Progress will be included in future reports to the Committee on counter-fraud activity.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 No specific consultation has been undertaken in compiling this report.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy provides a blueprint for local authorities in combatting fraud and corruption for the period 2016 to 2019. Adoption of the strategy has provided a valuable means to evaluate the ongoing development of its counter fraud and corruption arrangements.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Whilst the report has no direct impact on these areas, the continued development of effective counter fraud arrangements plays an important role in supporting the Council's corporate plans and priorities by seeking to ensure that resources and interests are safeguarded.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Fighting Fraud Locally – The Local Government Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2016-2019

Contact Officer: Derek Whiteway

Telephone: 01524 582028

E-mail: dwhiteway@lancaster.gov.uk

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