

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (GOVERNANCE)**

SUBJECT: **ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY AND
FRAUD RESPONSE PLAN**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To outline to Members the updated Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Fraud and Irregularity Response Plan.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 These documents have been in use since 2002 and were last updated and approved by the Audit Committee in 2010. There is a need to review them periodically to ensure they reflect any changes in working practice, legislation and other regulations. The two documents have been updated by Internal Audit in conjunction with People and Resources and Governance.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy is written for the benefit of employees, Councillors and the public and to inform organisations and businesses dealing with the Council who are also expected to act with integrity. It has been updated after review of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, the CIIA Policy Paper and 'Fighting Fraud Locally', published by the LGA. Published Strategies from other Councils have also been considered.

3.02 The Strategy states the Council Policy of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, defines them and outlines the culture within the Council to combat them. It outlines the deterrence, prevention, detection and investigation measures in place and lists the roles and responsibilities of individuals and groups both within and outside the Council.

3.03 The Fraud and Irregularity Response Plan defines the responsibilities for action and provides guidance to managers and employees in the event of a suspected fraud or other irregularity.

3.04 It outlines the actions that should be taken by employees, managers and Members if they suspect fraud, and also what will happen after

they pass on the suspicion and the action that may be taken. It also refers to the Whistleblowing Policy, which was updated recently.

- 3.05 The amendments to both the Strategy and the Response Plan are substantive, so it would not be helpful to use tracked changes from the existing documents. The new Strategy and Response Plan are shown in the Appendices.
- 3.06 The Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and the Fraud Response Plan both form part of the Council Constitution. Following approval by the Audit Committee they will be presented to the Constitution Committee.
- 3.07 It is intended to publicise the Strategy and the Response Plan to all employees. An e-learning module is being developed to raise awareness and knowledge among employees. This will be launched as part of the Council's e-learning package in early 2015. Members will also be informed of the new Strategy and Response Plan.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 For the Audit Committee to agree or amend as appropriate the updated Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.
- 4.02 For the Audit Committee to agree or amend as appropriate the updated Fraud Response Plan.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 With the Chief Executive, Chief Officer Governance, Chief Officer People and Resources, Democracy and Governance Manager and Trades Unions.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 With the Chief Executive, Chief Officer Governance, Chief Officer People and Resources, Democracy and Governance Manager and Trades Unions.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A – Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2014
Appendix B – Fraud Response Plan 2014

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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