

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2015**

REPORT BY: **INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER**

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

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To consider amending the Constitution to reflect the updated Council 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. They were agreed by the Audit Committee on 28th January 2015.

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 Chartered Institute of Internal Audit (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 a 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 It is intended to publicise the Strategy and 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 2015. Members will also be informed of the new Strategy and Response Plan.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 The committee is requested to consider and approve the updated Strategy and Response Plan attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

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 relevant officers in People and Resources and Governance portfolios. It has also been considered by the Audit Committee.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 With relevant officers in People and Resources and Governance portfolios. It has also been considered by the Audit Committee.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 Appendix 1 – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy
Appendix 2 – fraud and Irregularity Response Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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