

Part I

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All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
AUDIT COMMITTEE 28 SEPTEMBER 2020  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES)

**Part I**

**REVIEW OF CORPORATE ANT-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY AND  
ASSOCIATED POLICIES**

**1 Executive Summary**

1.1 The council's current anti-fraud and corruption policies and framework are due for renewal. To ensure consistency and coherent framework these policies have all been reviewed together. These policies are:

- Anti-fraud and corruption
- Anti-bribery
- Anti-money Laundering
- Preventing Tax Evasion

1.2 As the reviews were more fundamental in approach, policies have not been presented with tracked changes. Current policies can be found on the council's website for reference:

<https://www.welhat.gov.uk/policies>

1.3 The formal approval of the policies will be undertaken by Standards Committee on 30 November 2020.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 That Audit Committee note and provide comments as appropriate on the suite of proposed policies.

**3 Explanation**

3.1 The council's current anti-fraud and corruption policies are out of date and due a review. The Herts Shared Internal Fraud Service was commissioned to undertake a review of these policies and provide guidance on requirements.

3.2 The policies have been updated to be more streamlined and coherent, improving consistency in approach between policies. An example of this is the use of a single email account for reporting the different areas of fraud and corruption.

3.3 These policies reflect the latest guidance and best practice including two publications issued in early 2020. (Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy 2020 (CIFAS) and A Guide to Understanding the Total Impact of Fraud 2020 (International Public Sector Fraud Forum)).

- 3.4 In particular, the CIFAS strategy seeks to improve the ways in which councils can come together to tackle fraud, and the proposed policies provide the scope and framework to do so.
- 3.5 The policies will be presented to Standards Committee on 30 November 2020. They are presented to Audit Committee as an opportunity to comment and feed into the proposed policies.

## **Implications**

### **4 Legal Implication(s)**

- 4.1 There is a suite of legislation that the council must comply with in relation to fraud and corruption. The relevant legislation is listed on the front page of each of the policies.

### **5 Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 There are no direct impacts arising from the implementation of these policies. However, the policies provide a continued framework for the council to tackle fraud and corruption to prevent financial losses or recover losses where a fraud is identified.

### **6 Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 Failure to have robust policies and processes in place for the prevention and management of fraud and corruption could expose the council to significant financial losses and reputational damage.

### **7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)**

- 7.1 In some instances, money laundering, fraud and corruption can be linked to wider criminal and terrorist activity. Having these policies help reduce exposure for the council being linked to such activities.

### **8 Procurement Implication(s)**

Not applicable

### **9 Climate Change Implication(s)**

- 9.1 Not applicable

### **10 Human Resources Implication(s)**

Not applicable

### **11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)**

- 11.1 Not applicable

### **12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)**

- 12.1 The communication and training plan on the policies will be developed for members and employees after the policies are approved.

### **13 Link to Corporate Priorities**

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority "Our Council".

### **14 Equality and Diversity**

14.1 An EqIA was completed on 17 September 2020 and no negative impact was identified on any of the protected groups under equalities legislation.

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<b>Date</b>	17 September 2020

#### Appendices

Appendix A - Anti-fraud and corruption  
Appendix B - Anti-bribery  
Appendix C - Anti-money Laundering  
Appendix D - Preventing Tax Evasion