

Local Members' Interest
N/A

Audit and Standards Committee – 3rd December 2018

CIPFA'S Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Checklist - Update

Recommendations

1. To note the self-assessment by Staffordshire County Council's Internal Audit service against CIPFA's Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2016-2019 strategy.
2. The Audit and Standards Committee endorse the Council's zero tolerance approach to combatting fraud.

Report of the Director of Finance & Resources

Background Information

3. CIPFA's Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2016-2019 (FFCL) strategy is aimed at Council leadership and those charged with Governance. It is produced by a partnership of Local Authorities and stakeholders from Central Government and consultants. The Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy for Local Government provides a blueprint upon which our Counter Fraud workplan at Staffordshire County Council is based.
4. FFCL was prepared against a backdrop of increasing volumes of fraud being reported to the Police and a perceived disparity as to the approach taken to fighting fraud across local government organisations, and a need for further investment into counter fraud measures.
5. FFCL presents a vision for 2019:
 - a. There is a culture in which fraud and corruption are unacceptable, and everyone plays a part in eradicating them.
 - b. By better understanding risk and using technology local authorities will shut the door to fraudsters who try to access their systems and services.
 - c. Local Authorities will have invested in sustainable systems to tackle fraud and corruption and will see the results of recovery.
 - d. Local Authorities will be sharing information more effectively and by using advanced data technology will prevent and detect losses.
 - e. Fraudsters will be brought to account quickly and efficiently and losses will be recovered.
6. FFCL was published alongside a companion document and a checklist. The companion document provides further details of high risk frauds facing local government organisations, with case studies as to how these have been mitigated.

7. The self-assessment of Council activity against the FFCL checklist has been carried out, the results of which are attached as **Appendix A**.

Equalities Implications

8. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

9. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 specifically require that a relevant body must “maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper internal audit practices”.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

10. There are no specific resource or value for money implications presented by this report.

Risk Implications

11. Inadequate response to the risk of fraud increases the risk of fraud losses and subsequent reputational damage not being minimised.

Climate Change Implications

12. There are no specific climate change implications presented by this report.

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List of Background Documents/Reference Material:

[Appendix A - Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2016-2019 Self-Assessment](#)

Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2016-19
Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2016-19 - The Companion
Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2016-19 - Checklist