

# **Business Assurance - Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Strategy 2017-20**

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## **REASON FOR ITEM**

The attached report presents the Audit Committee with the draft Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption (AF&AC) Strategy 2017-20. The Strategy document, which was distributed by email to Audit Committee members as a draft on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017, defines the London Borough of Hillingdon's (LBH's) approach to managing the risk of fraud and corruption against the Council. It sets out how the Council encourages best practice in AF&AC to help embed it across all of its services, projects and external partnerships. Any fraudulent or corrupt act committed against the Council effectively constitutes theft of taxpayers' money and is therefore unlawful. This criminal behaviour deprives the Council of vital resources which would otherwise be used to provide valuable public services.

## **OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee is asked to approve the Council's AF&AC Strategy 2017-20 (dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017) which has also been circulated to other key stakeholders. The links to the supporting policies/documents in section 4 of the Strategy will be 'made live' once they each have been approved by CMT over the coming weeks.

## **INFORMATION**

In order to deliver LBH's aims, vision and priority themes, the Council needs to maximise the available financial and non-financial resources. Therefore this strategy document is designed to:

- Reduce fraud and corruption losses to an absolute minimum;
- Include all areas of the organisation and external stakeholders in its approach to AF&AC; and
- Support the Council in defending itself against any prosecutions under the Bribery Act.

As part of its strategic risk management approach, the Council ensures that there is a robust framework in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption. Its aim is to:

- Maintain a 'zero-tolerance' approach to fraud and corruption;
- Provide a strong deterrent effect;
- Prevent fraud and corruption through proper design of internal control systems including policies and procedures; and
- Continue to undertake the detection and investigation of fraud and corruption, including applying sanctions and recovery procedures where it is identified.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

LBH AF&AC Strategy 2017-20.