

ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY
WDA/23/11

Recommendation

That:

1. Members approve the anti fraud and corruption strategy

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Report of the Treasurer

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 An anti fraud and corruption strategy is a key component of the Authority's governance arrangements. The strategy has been reviewed and updated and Members are asked to approve the revised strategy attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Authority maintains an effective governance framework that reduces the risk of the Authority failing to achieve its strategic and financial objectives. An important part of those objectives is to minimise the risk of fraud and corruption affecting the Authority and its activities.
- 2.2 In order to minimise the risk of fraud and corruption the Authority maintains an Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy that sets out the principles under which Officers and Members of the Authority should conduct the business of the Authority. This strategy is reviewed and updated periodically to ensure the Authority's approach remains in line with best practice.

3. Review

- 3.1 The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy has been reviewed and updated, the revised strategy is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 The strategy confirms that the Authority will not tolerate fraud and corruption in any of its activity. The strategy also provides illustrative definitions of what fraud, corruption and bribery may consist of and although these can not be comprehensive they provide a useful guide regarding behaviours that should not be tolerated.
- 3.3 The strategy applies to all officers and Members of the Authority, and the scope also confirms that third parties are expected to meet the same standards of behaviour in dealing with the Authority.

- 3.4 The strategy sets out the Authority's policy on anti fraud and corruption as well as providing details of the framework for ensuring fraudulent or corrupt behaviour is frustrated. The framework includes an operating culture; deterrent and preventative measures; and a fraud response policy and detection and investigation procedure.
- 3.5 The anti-fraud and corruption strategy has been extended to include the Authority's response to its responsibilities under the Money Laundering Regulations and the Proceeds of Crime Act. Among the key changes include nominating the Treasurer to the Authority as the Money Laundering Reporting Officer, making the Treasurer responsible for reporting any suspicion of money laundering to the relevant authorities.

4. Risk Implication

- 4.1 The Authority has an effective Governance framework in place. The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy is an important part of the governance framework. If the strategy is not reviewed, updated and re-approved periodically then the risk of fraud and corruption occurring at the Authority will increase.

5. HR Implications

- 5.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report.

6. Environmental Implications

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy is an important part of the Authority's Governance framework. The Strategy has been reviewed and updated and Members are asked to approve the Strategy to ensure the Authority's arrangements remain in line with good practice.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.