

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
24 JANUARY 2023**

ANTI-FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION POLICY AND STRATEGY

Cabinet Member Cllr Bob Deed, Leader
Responsible Officer Andrew Jarrett Deputy CEO/s151 Officer & Dean Emery
Corporate Manager

Reason for Report: To present the Committee with the reviewed and updated policy for Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy/Response Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That the Committee approves the revised Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and the strategy/response plan.
2. That the Committee gives the Corporate Manager for Revenues, Benefits, Corporate Recovery, Planning, Planning Enforcement, Economic Development, Forward Planning, Welfare & Anti-Fraud and Corruption, delegated authority to make minor amendments to these documents e.g. changes to job titles.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The policy and strategy support good governance arrangements, enabling confidence in our delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Financial Implications: Not having these documents could result in not detecting fraud, corruption or financial irregularities, which could result in a loss to the Council.

Budget and Policy Framework: The policy is already included in the budget and policy framework.

Legal Implications: Any legal requirements are embedded in the documents; no new or additional implications arise.

Risk Assessment: Without this policy and strategy the Council is at risk of not detecting fraud, corruption or financial irregularities, which could result in significant loss to the Council and damage its reputation.

Equality Impact Assessment: No equality issues identified for this report.

Impact on Climate Change: No impacts identified for this report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption policy was last approved at Audit Committee on 26 January 2021. A revised version is now required to keep the policy and strategy in line with best practice.

- 1.2 In-line with best practice, the policy is separate from the strategy and response plan.
- 1.3 MDDC will work closely with the Counter Fraud Service Team Manager.
- 1.4 The strategy Summary can be found at Appendix A.

2.0 **Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is essential to have these policies in place to promote good governance and accountability within MDDC. The Committee is therefore asked to approve the policy and strategy documents. (see recommendations above)
- 2.2 These policies are reviewed every four years so unless there are any major changes, the Committee will next review them in 2027.

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Circulation of the Report: Leadership Team and Cabinet Member