

COUNCIL 27th SEPTEMBER 2023

Governance and Business Committee 4th September 2023

13 REVIEW OF FRAUD POLICIES

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented a written report which provided information on the review of the Council's fraud policies. Members were advised that due to an administrative oversight in 2021, Officers comprehensively reviewed and made substantial changes to both the Counter Fraud & Corruption Strategy 2021-24 (Strategy) and the Anti-Bribery Policy and Procedure (Policy) but did not then present either of those documents to the Committee for review, and onward approval to Council. The Officers responsible for the review were no longer employed by the Council and therefore it was not clear why the changes were not presented to Committee. Since the review Officers have been working in accordance with both the revised Strategy (Appendix 1) and Policy (Appendix 2).

The revised Strategy and Policy were both substantially different than those that currently sit within the Constitution and changes to the Constitution could only be ratified by Council. This Committee was responsible for monitoring the operation of the Constitution and making recommendations to the Council if changes were required to it. Members were requested to review both documents as though they were being presented for the first time.

Members discussed what steps were required so that this situation did not occur again in the future, the consequences of not approving the policies already adopted, how frequent the policy was required to be used, the refresh of the Constitution, how to catalogue Strategies and Policies going forward to assist in identifying the latest current Policy or Strategy was published and followed correct procedure, information on rules concerning financial transactions, and councillors and employees codes of conduct.

***RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that:**

(a) the Counter Fraud & Corruption Strategy 2021-24 be approved;

(b) the Anti-Bribery policy and procedure be approved: and

(c) both the Counter Fraud & Corruption Strategy 2021-24 the Anti-Bribery policy and procedure be adopted.