

**Audit Committee
16 October 2020**

Subject and Purpose: ANTI-FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY		
Recommendations / key decisions required: To endorse the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy.		
Reasons: To allow the Audit Committee to comment on the content of the Strategy.		
Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: N/A		
Exec. Board Decision Required: N/A		
Council Decision Required: N/A		
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr D Jenkins		
Directorate: Corporate Services		
Name of Head of Service: Helen Pugh	Designation: Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance	Tel No.: 01267 246223
Report Author: Helen Pugh		E Mail Address: HLPugh@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Audit Committee

16 October 2020

Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Carmarthenshire County Council has a zero-tolerance stance to all forms of fraud, corruption and theft, both from within the Council and from external sources. We recognise fraud can:

- Undermine the standards of public service that the Council is attempting to achieve;
- Reduce the level of resources and services available for the residents of Carmarthenshire; and
- Result in major consequences which reduce public confidence in the Council.

Fraud is not a victimless crime and can affect us all:

- **The monetary cost** – In monetary terms, fraud costs the country billions of pounds a year. It also affects the amount of money we have available to spend on providing public services.
- **The human cost** – There are other not so obvious costs as a consequence of some frauds. For example, a consequence of Council Housing Tenancy Fraud is that available housing spaces are reduced thereby depriving families and vulnerable people on the waiting list.

Good Corporate Governance requires that the Authority must demonstrate clearly that it is committed to dealing with fraud and corruption and will deal equally with perpetrators from inside (Members and Employees) and outside the Council.

This strategy is closely linked to current policies within the Authority which provide staff with guidance on the prevention and reporting of fraud and corruption.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: H L Pugh – Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

Legal:

The Fraud Act affects both companies and individuals and is part of a wider initiative to combat the increasing problem of fraud.

Finance:

In monetary terms, fraud costs the country billions of pounds a year. It also affects the amount of money we have available to spend on providing public services.

Risk Management Issues:

The nature and scale of fraud risks must be established and assessed.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: H L Pugh – Head of Revenues and Financial Compliance

1.Scrutiny Committee: Not Applicable

2.Local Member(s): Not Applicable

3.Community / Town Council: Not Applicable

4.Relevant Partners: Not Applicable

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations: Not Applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Financial Procedure Rules		Internal Audit Unit PMP
Contract Procedure Rules		
Whistleblowing Policy		
Behaviour and standards of the Authority		
Benefit Fraud Procedures		
Code of Conduct		