

AUDIT BOARD

20TH MARCH 2014

CORPORATE FRAUD – AUDIT REVIEW

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mike Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering – Executive Director, Finance and Resources
Wards Affected	All

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To present the Audit brief of the Internal Audit review currently being undertaken in relation to Corporate Fraud.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to note the Audit Brief in relation to Corporate Fraud.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1. As members are aware at a previous meeting of this Board the issue of Whistleblowing and Corporate Fraud have been discussed. As part of the Internal Audit Plan for 2013/14 a review of the Councils policies and practices in relation to Corporate Fraud and Whistleblowing has been requested. This will inform any revisions to the current policies to ensure that the Council has robust controls in place to prevent corporate fraud and is supporting staff that have concerns that they wish to raise.
- 3.2 The attached document at Appendix 2 is the Audit Brief for this review. The areas covered will address current policies and procedures whilst identifying best practice across the Audit environment.
- 3.3 The results of the Audit will be presented to the next Board and Members will have the opportunity to consider the action plans in place to improve the controls we currently have in place to manage this issue.
- 3.4 In addition the current whistleblowing policy is attached at Appendix 1. This will be one of the policies reviewed by the Audit team with the aim to improve it as part of the brief.

Financial Implications

- 3.5 The Council works in partnership with Worcester City Council and this audit will be funded within the annual charge which covers all audit activity.

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Legal Implications

- 3.6 Robust controls in place to prevent corporate fraud and supporting staff who wish to raise concerns, enables the Council to meet its legal responsibilities in relation to statutory compliance with accounting policies and procedures.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 The mitigation of fraud will ensure funds are available to support the Councils operational services.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8. No direct implications.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

The controls to mitigate fraud and associated risks are included in the corporate risk register and are managed by the Executive Director of Finance and Resources on a regular basis. These may be enhanced following the Audit.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Current Whistleblowing policy
Appendix 2 – Internal Audit Brief re Corporate Fraud.

AUTHORS OF REPORT

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