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| REPORT TO: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
| DATE: | 28 JULY 2016 |
| REPORT OF THE: | FINANCE MANAGER (s151) PETER JOHNSON |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY |
| WARDS AFFECTED: | ALL |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The report sets out a counter fraud and corruption strategy for the council. The strategy acknowledges the fraud risks the council faces and outlines plans to strengthen its counter fraud framework.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the proposed counter fraud and corruption strategy and action plan, subject to approval of the updated counter fraud and corruption policy by Full Council.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To help ensure the council maintains robust counter fraud arrangements.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The risk of fraud against public bodies is growing. It is essential that the council maintains up to date counter fraud arrangements to minimise financial losses and safeguard public money.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Seeking to minimise losses from fraud helps to ensure that resources are directed to delivering services and supports the achievement of overall council aims.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 A recent internal audit review of counter fraud arrangements against the Code of Practice has highlighted a need to review existing arrangements. In response to this the council has developed a counter fraud strategy that recognises the fraud risks it faces and sets out actions required to strengthen the counter fraud framework. The proposed strategy and action plan is included at appendix 1. The strategy takes into

account both the Code of Practice, and the national local government counter fraud strategy, Fighting Fraud Locally. The strategy is a working document and updates will be brought to the committee for review annually.

- 6.2 The counter fraud strategy forms part of an overall review of counter fraud arrangements. It has been developed having regard to the counter fraud and corruption policy and anti money laundering policy reported separately within this agenda. The strategy action plan includes the requirement for a fraud risk assessment which is also included as a separate report within this agenda. Conversely, the fraud risk assessment actions inform the strategy action plan.
- 6.3 Further reports will be brought to this Committee, as and when required, in line with the actions identified.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
None
 - b) Legal
None
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
None

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Background Papers:

- Fighting Fraud & Corruption Locally - The local government counter fraud and corruption strategy 2016 - 2019)
- The Code of Practice on Managing the Risks of Fraud and Corruption (Cipfa 2014).

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy