


<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>AUDIT AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE</p> <p>15 September 2020</p>	
<p>ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY REVIEW</p>	
<p>Report of the Director of Finance</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Information Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Consultation</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The Audit and Performance Committee is responsible for the effective scrutiny of anti-fraud arrangements and activities, the Audit Pensions and Standards Committee:

- review and approve anti-fraud policies and strategies
- is responsible for gaining assurance that policies are kept up to date and are fit for purpose.

1.2 This paper contains the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2020, for review and approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Note and approve the updated anti-fraud and corruption strategy.

3. REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- 3.1 To inform the Committee of policy revisions and to provide assurance that policies are kept up to date and are fit for purpose.

4. ANTI-FRAUD POLICIES

- 4.1 Minimising any losses to fraud and corruption is an essential part of ensuring that all of the Council's resources are used for the purposes for which they are intended and ensuring we remain ruthlessly financially efficient.
- 4.2 Staff are often the first to spot possible cases of wrongdoing at an early stage and are therefore encouraged and, indeed, expected to raise any concern that they may have, without fear of recrimination. Any concerns raised will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be appropriately investigated.
- 4.3 It is therefore vitally important that anti-fraud policies are kept up to date to support and guide Council staff, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, giving guidance for decision-making, and streamlining internal processes.

5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance is required to provide an annual report and opinion on the Council's system of internal control under the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. This includes having appropriate arrangements for protecting, detecting and deterring fraud against the Council.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The report has been subject to consultation with the Strategic Leadership Team.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The work of CAFS is governed by a range of legislation including: the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, the Criminal Procedures Investigation Act, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, the Fraud Act, the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act and the Proceeds of Crime Act.

9. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Resources required to deliver on the Council's counter fraud strategy come from the budget allocated to the Corporate Anti-fraud Service. There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. Successful

investigations and prosecutions can lead to the recovery of Council assets and money which are required to protect front line services.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT

10.1 The delivery of the counter fraud strategy and associated policies contributes to the management of fraud risks faced by the Council, with proactive exercises supporting managers to put effective counter fraud and corruption controls in place in their systems and processes.

11. PROCUREMENT AND IT STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no procurement or IT strategy implications arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT**

None.

Appendices:

Appendix1 – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy 2020