

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy, Strategy and Response Plan

**Committee:** Audit and Governance Committee

**Date:** 10 December 2018

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Lowry

**CMT Member:** Andrew Hardingham (Service Director for Finance)

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**Ref:** Your ref. AUD/KJ

**Key Decision:** No

**Part:** I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

Fraud is a major drain on the Public Purse and it is therefore imperative that all public-sector staff work to prevent fraudulent activity and understand the threats and risks involved to the country's economy and specifically the local economy. The public are entitled to expect the local authority to conduct its affairs with honesty and openness and to demand the highest levels of integrity and conduct from its staff, members and partners.

The Council is committed to clear accountability in the use of resources to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities. Making sure that the opportunity for fraud, bribery and corruption is reduced to the absolute practical minimum enables the Council to protect the money that is needed to deliver responsive and effective frontline services.

The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy sets out the expectations of Plymouth City Council, describes what is meant by fraud, bribery and corruption and outlines the responsibilities of the Corporate Management Team, operational managers, officers and elected members.

The Anti-fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy and Response Plan details the actions the Council will undertake to prevent fraud, bribery and corruption from happening in the first place. How alleged or suspected occurrences will be investigated and the sanctions available to the Council when it is able to prove an offence beyond reasonable doubt or the offender confesses to having committed a criminal offence against the Authority.

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### **Corporate Plan**

The work of the Counter Fraud Team is an intrinsic element of the Council's overall corporate governance, risk management and internal control framework. The Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy together with the associated Strategy and Response Plan supports the Council's values through

the promotion of good governance and plays a key role in the prevention, detection and pursuit of economic crimes, building public trust and achieving the City's ambitions.

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**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:  
Including finance, human, IT and land**

None.

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**Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

None.

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**Equality and Diversity**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes

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**Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

The updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and the associated Strategy and Response Plan be approved.

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**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

None. The public are entitled to expect the Council to display honesty and openness and the highest levels of integrity and conduct from its staff, members and partners. The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy, Strategy and Response Plan reflect the Council's commitment to making sure that the opportunity for fraud, bribery and corruption is reduced to the lowest possible level.

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**Published work / information:**

**Background papers:**

None.

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**Sign off:**

Fin	pl.18.19.153	Leg	31660/LT	Mon Off	HR	AM.18.11.26	Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member Andrew Hardingham, Service Director for Finance												
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes												