

Committee: **Governance & Audit Committee**
 Date of meeting: **17th April 2024**
 Report Subject: **Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption & Anti-Bribery Policy**
 Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Steve Thomas – Leader / Cabinet Member for Corporate Overview and Performance**
 Report Submitted by: **Louise Rosser – Audit and Risk Manager**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance & Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
	04/04/2024		17/04/2024			12.06.24		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Governance & Audit Committee the revised Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption & Anti-Bribery Policy attached at Appendix A.

2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The policy has been revised to reflect the current legislation and the current reporting structure of the Authority.

3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee consider and challenge the content of the policy ensuring it is consistent with their knowledge and understanding of the wider issues.
 - 3.2 The Governance and Audit Committee may then choose to:
 - Option 1
To support the policy and recommend approval and adoption by Cabinet.
 - Option 2
Propose amendments / alterations to the Policy prior to approval by Cabinet.

4. **Evidence of how this topic support the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**
 - 4.1 This report supports the Authority in achieving its Corporate Plan Priority of an ambitious and innovative council delivering quality services at the right time and in the right place through demonstrating that adequate measures are in place for the prevention and detection of fraud, by protecting the Authority's assets.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Impact on Budget (short- and long-term impact)

5.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, although the detection and prevention of fraud contribute to ensuring the proper use of resources.

5.2 Risk including Mitigating Actions

5.2.1 Failure to meet its obligations in respect of preventing fraud, corruption and bribery exposes the Authority to a variety of risks including financial loss and reputational damage. Development of, and adherence to, this policy assists in mitigating these risks as part of the Governance Framework.

5.3 Legal

5.3.1 Adoption of the policy ensures compliance with the various legislation referred to in the policy in relation to financial crime.

5.4 Human Resources

5.4.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications arising from this report. Responsibilities for the prevention and detection of fraud, corruption and bribery sit within the existing roles of officers.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 Performance Information and Data

6.1.1 There are no performance information and data implications arising from this report.

6.2 Expected outcome for the public

6.2.1 An effective Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy contributes to the protection of public funds and the prevention and detection of criminal activity.

6.3 Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)

There are no direct implications under involvement.

6.4 Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)

Adoption of the policy enhances the internal control environment and financial resilience of the Authority.

6.5 Preventative focus

Adoption of the policy enhances the internal control environment and financial resilience of the Authority.

6.6 Collaboration / partnership working

Not applicable.

6.7 Integration (across service areas)

Not applicable

6.8 Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions.
Not applicable

6.9 Integrated Impact Assessment
Not applicable

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 There are no further monitoring arrangements required for this report.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix A – Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy