



**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM (11)**

**COUNTER FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY**

<b>Accountable Members</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Accountable Officer</b>	Robert Milford Head of Audit Cotswolds 01285 623350 robert.milford@cotswold.gov.uk

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To present the Audit Committee with a draft of a proposed Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy. The Committee is asked to review the Policy and to provide comments for consideration by the Cabinet in February 2016.
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>That the Audit Committee considers the Policy and forwards any comments thereon to the Cabinet, to aid its consideration of the Policy at its February 2016 Meeting</b>
<b>Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)</b>	The Audit Committee oversees the Council's counter-fraud arrangements and it is therefore appropriate for the Committee to comment on the draft Policy before it is formally adopted.

<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	N/A
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Recommendation to Council</b>	No - the Committee's comments will be considered by the Cabinet in February 2016.

<b>Financial Implications</b>	None directly arising from the report.
<b>Legal and Human Rights Implications</b>	As detailed in the draft policy.
<b>Environmental and Sustainability Implications</b>	None directly arising from the report.
<b>Human Resource Implications</b>	As detailed within the report.
<b>Key Risks</b>	The Council is required to adopt a Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy to enable Officers to proactively tackle fraudulent activity against the Council or other public sector bodies.

<b>Equalities Impact Assessment</b>	Not Required
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<b>Related Decisions</b>	None
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<b>Background Documents</b>	None
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<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Appendix A - Draft Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy</b>
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<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	Regular updates on counter-fraud work will be made to the Audit Committee by the Head of Internal Audit.
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<b>Options for Joint Working</b>	The Council is the lead authority for the Gloucestershire Counter Fraud project. This project is working across all of the Gloucestershire Authorities, West Oxfordshire District Council and other public sector bodies, such as Housing Associations. A business case is currently being prepared on the financial sustainability of creating a permanent counter-fraud unit. The business case will be considered by the Council during 2016/17.
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<b>Background Information</b>	
<p>1. The draft Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy has been developed to reflect (i) latest legislation and (ii) the changes from the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Services (operated by the Department for Work and Pensions) which subsumed the Council's responsibilities for investigating Housing Benefit Fraud.</p> <p>2. The draft Policy has been developed in consultation with all of the Gloucestershire authorities, to provide a platform for the operation of the pilot counter-fraud unit.</p> <p>3. The Audit Committee is asked to consider the draft Policy and to provide comments thereon to the Cabinet, to aid its deliberations on draft Policy (at its February 2016 Meeting).</p>	

(END)