



CABINET

21st JANUARY 2016

AGENDA ITEM (8)

COUNTER FRAUD AND ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

Accountable Members	Cabinet
Accountable Officer	Robert Milford Head of Audit Cotswolds 01285 623350 robert.milford@cotswold.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To present the Cabinet with a draft of a proposed Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption policy. The Cabinet is asked to review the Policy and to formally adopt it.
Recommendation(s)	That the revised Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption policy be adopted.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To replace the existing Policy with one which reflects current legislation and to support the position in relation to the counter fraud pilot within Internal Audit.
Ward(s) Affected	N/A.
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No
Financial Implications	None directly arising from the report
Legal and Human Rights Implications	As detailed in the draft policy
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None directly arising from the report
Human Resource Implications	As detailed within the report
Key Risks	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.
Equalities Impact Assessment	Not Required

Related Decisions	Audit Committee 5 January 2016
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Draft Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy

Performance Management Follow Up	Adoption of the Policy. Publication and subsequent staff and Member awareness.
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Options for Joint Working	The Council is the lead authority for the Gloucestershire Counter Fraud project. This project is engaging 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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Background Information	
<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 the Gloucestershire authorities, to provide a platform for the operation of the pilot counter-fraud unit.</p> <p>3. The Audit Committee considered the draft Policy on 5 January 2016 and requested reference to the Council's Whistleblowing Policy at 8.11. This has been incorporated in the draft policy. The Audit Committee also recommended a Press release to publicise that the Council is leading on a large scale counter fraud project funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government.</p>	

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