

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2017

Title of paper:	COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Strategic Director of Finance	Wards affected: ALL
Report author(s) and contact details:	Head of Audit and Risk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To endorse the City Council's Counter Fraud Strategy (CFS) set out at Appendix 1	
2	To endorse the Counter Fraud Strategy for Schools (SCFS) set out at Appendix 2	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the City Council's updated Counter Fraud Strategy (CFS) and the Counter Fraud Strategy for Schools (SCFS).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Good governance policies and procedures are essential when allocating and controlling Council resources and supporting effective delivery of the Council's strategic and operational objectives.
- 2.2 A cornerstone of the Council's governance policies is the CFS, which brings together the key strands of governance into an overarching strategy document. The maintenance and embedding of a counter fraud culture is essential if the Council is to maximise the use of its resources and minimise waste through inefficiency and/or fraudulent activity.
- 2.3 An effective CFS provides the basis for developing a counter fraud culture in the Council and, as part of the Council's control system, the elements of the CFS contribute positively to the assurance received by the Committee in respect of the effectiveness of the control environment.
- 2.4 The CFS is the main strategy statement geared towards protecting public funds and assets by requiring compliance with regulations, rules, procedures and guidelines designed to promote the highest standards of conduct and behaviour.
- 2.5 The main updates to the strategy and response plans are in respect of:
 - The NCC response to cyber crime
 - Reflecting updates to established procedures
- 2.6 The CFS will continue to evolve and develop to reflect changes in legislation and best governance practice. The strategy was last approved by the Committee in November 2015.
- 2.7 Once approved, the CFS will be publicised on the intranet.

- 2.8 We are currently working with HR colleagues to refresh the City's Whistle Blowing Code.
- 2.9 As part of our counter fraud activity, an on-line fraud awareness e-learning module which takes approximately 30 minutes has been in use since 2015 with all councillors and colleagues are encouraged to participate.

3 BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 None

4 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 4.1 Counter Fraud Strategy – Audit Committee 27 November 2015