

**Meeting date:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Report to:** Audit Committee

**Report title:** Draft Fraud and Corruption Statement and Policy

**Report from:** Steve Sparkes, Head of Audit Services

**Report author/lead contact officer:** Zoe Covington - Counter Fraud Lead

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**Wards affected:**

All Wards |  Bickenhill |  Blythe |  Castle Bromwich |  Chelmsley Wood |  
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath |  Elmdon |  Kingshurst/Fordbridge |  Knowle |  
 Lyndon |  Meriden |  Olton |  Shirley East |  Shirley South |  
 Shirley West |  Silhill |  Smith's Wood |  St Alphege

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**Public/private report:** Public

**Exempt by virtue of paragraph:** N/A

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**1. Executive Summary**

1.1 To inform the Audit Committee of the proposed new Fraud and Corruption Statement and Policy, for comment and endorsement.

**2. Decision(s) Recommended**

2.1 The Audit Committee are asked to note the new wording of the Statement and Policy, identifying any areas where they wish to receive further information or explanation from Audit Services.

2.2 The Audit Committee are asked to endorse the draft Statement and Policy, pending final approval by the Governance Committee.

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**3. Matters for Consideration**

- 3.1 The Council’s current Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy is being replaced by 3 documents:
- An overall, one-page Fraud and Corruption Statement, to be endorsed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, outlining the Council’s approach to fraud and corruption (attached).
  - A Fraud and Corruption Policy, outlining the roles, responsibilities and processes involved (attached).
  - A confidential Counter Fraud Strategy, which will detail the methods, tools and activities in place to tackle fraud (pending). This will not be widely publicised to prevent fraudsters from knowing which areas we are / are not targeting, but will be approved, in private, by the Audit Committee.
- 3.2 This draft Statement and Policy has already been shared with the following, for input and endorsement: HR, lead officers named within the Policy, the AD Group and CLT.

**4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?**

4.1 Not applicable for this report.

**5. Reasons for recommending preferred option**

5.1 Not applicable for this report.

**6. Implications and Considerations**

6.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

Priority:	Contribution:
People and Communities: 1. Improving outcomes for children and young people in Solihull. 2. Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it. 3. Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities. 4. Enable communities to thrive.	See Section 3
Economy:	See Section 3

Priority:	Contribution:
5. Develop and promote the borough's economy, with a focus on revitalising our town and local centres. 6. Maximising the opportunities of UK Central and HS2. 7. Increase the supply of affordable and social housing that is environmentally sustainable.	
<b>Environment:</b> 8. Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions.	See Section 3
9. Promote employee wellbeing	See Section 3

## 6.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.2.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 6.3 Financial implications:

6.3.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 6.4 Legal implications:

6.4.1 None specifically relating to this report.

## 6.5 Risk implications, including Risk Appetite:

6.5.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 6.6 Equality implications:

6.6.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 6.7 Linkages to our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Local

Enterprise Partnership or the Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (ICS):

6.7.1 Not applicable for this report.

**7. List of appendices referred to**

7.1 Draft Fraud and Corruption Statement

7.2 Draft Fraud and Corruption Policy

**8. Background papers used to compile this report**

8.1 Fighting Fraud Locally 2020.

**9. List of Other Relevant Documents**

9.1 Not applicable for this report.