

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY



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1. Objectives

- 1.1 The objective of this document is to provide an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy for Buckinghamshire County Council. The Strategy supports the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Framework Policy. This strategy has been agreed by the elected members of the Council and is designed to integrate with and reinforce the Council's key objective of providing efficient and effective services for the community it serves.
- 1.2 In order to deliver our Council's aims, it is necessary to maximise the available financial resources. Therefore this strategy is designed to:
- Reduce losses to fraud and corruption to an absolute minimum
 - Include all areas of the organisation and external stakeholders in relation to fraud and corruption.
- 1.3 Fraud and corruption is rare and not tolerated by the honest majority. Nevertheless, as part of its strategic risk management process, the Council has to ensure that there is robust framework in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption. Therefore, the Council's aim is to:
- Maintain and extend its 'zero-tolerance' culture to fraud and corruption
 - Maintain its stance of providing a strong deterrent
 - Prevent fraud and corruption by designing and reformulating policies and systems
 - Continue to undertake the detection and investigation of fraud and corruption including aiming to apply sanctions and recovery procedures where it is identified.
- 1.4 The Council is committed to an outcomes based strategy i.e. the achievement of a real reduction of losses to the authority.

2. Definition of Fraud

- 2.1 For the purposes of this strategy, fraud is as defined in the Fraud Act 2006. The Act provides for a general offence of fraud and three ways of committing it, as follows:
- By false representation
 - By failing to disclose information; and
 - By abuse of position.

3. Definition of Corruption

- 3.1 For the purposes of this strategy, corruption is defined as ‘the offering, giving, soliciting or acceptance of an inducement or reward, which may influence the action of any person.’

4. Scope

- 4.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy applies to

- Members
- Employees at all levels
- All organisations, contractors and partners associated with the Council
- Service users; and
- Other stakeholders.

5. Risk Management

The risks of fraud and corruption are considered as part of the Council’s strategic risk management arrangements. This includes fraud and corruption risks in relation to significant partnerships.

6. The Corporate Framework

- 6.1 The corporate framework which underpins this strategy includes the following:
- The Standards Committee of the Council
 - Members and officers who set the tone from the top by setting an example and also by complying with the Codes of Conduct
 - The Code of Corporate Governance
 - The Constitution including the Financial Regulations, Contract Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation
 - The Council’s policies and procedures
 - The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
 - Monitoring of and testing of the ethical framework
 - The Whistle Blowing procedure
 - The Complaints procedure
 - The Money Laundering procedure
 - The work by the Governance and Internal Audit Section and Trading Standards

- Participation in national anti-fraud initiatives (NFI) and the National Anti-Fraud Network
- Effective recruitment procedures
- Effective staff disciplinary procedures.

7. The Council's Approach

7.1 The Council's approach is designed to link the framework above which is devised to develop a corporate anti-fraud and corruption culture and the prevention of fraud and corruption by designing and redesigning policies and systems in order to create a strong deterrent and preventative effect. This is further supported by the Council's work to detect and investigate fraud and corruption and seeking to apply sanctions and recover losses where it is found.

7.2 The strategy to reduce fraud and corruption is based on:

- deterrence
- prevention
- detection
- investigation
- sanctions; and
- redress
- within the very strong corporate anti-fraud culture and robust corporate framework.

7.3 Responsibilities in each area are outlined in the Anti-Fraud and Corruption – Responsibilities document.

7.4 The details relating the Council's approach are included within the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.