

11 October 2016

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|----------------|---|--------|----------------------------|
| Report of      | Monitoring Officer                                  | Author | Andrew Weavers<br>☎ 282213 |
| Title          | Review of the Council's Ethical Governance Policies |        |                            |
| Wards affected | Not applicable                                      |        |                            |

**This report requests the Committee to review the Council's updated Ethical Governance policies**

## 1. Decision(s) Required

1.1 To review the following revised policies:

- Anti-Fraud and Corruption
- Whistleblowing
- Anti-Money Laundering
- Covert Surveillance
- Corporate Information Security
- Data Protection

and to recommend to Council that they be approved for inclusion in the Council's Policy Framework.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance including the elimination of fraud and corruption and to ensuring that all activities are conducted ethically, honestly, openly and accountably so as to protect public safety and public money.
- 2.2 A varied range of policies and procedures form the Corporate Governance framework and a selection of these relate to Ethical Governance - those specifically regarding conduct and integrity.
- 2.3 The Ethical Governance policies set out the standards of conduct and integrity that it expects from staff, elected members, suppliers, partners, volunteers and the public. Breaches of the policies will be pursued and procedures have been introduced to enable any person to raise genuine concerns they may have about the conduct of anybody acting for or on behalf of the Council.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 21 October 2015 full Council adopted a statement of intent in relation to both Ethical and Corporate Governance which gave a high organisational commitment to zero tolerance of fraud, corruption and bribery. The Ethical Governance policies were also adopted as part of the Council's policy framework.

### **3. Review of Ethical Governance Policies**

- 3.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Whistleblowing, Anti-Money Laundering, Covert Surveillance, Corporate Information Security and Data Protection policies were last reviewed by this Committee at its meeting on 13 October 2015.
- 3.2 These policies have been reviewed to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and no changes are proposed to the policies.
- 3.3 The Covert Surveillance Policy has been updated with links to revised national guidance on its use. The Council has not sought any authorisations for the use of covert surveillance in the past year.
- 3.4 The Monitoring Officer writes an annually to both Members and Officers reminding them of their obligations regarding the Anti-Fraud and Corruption and Whistleblowing policies.

### **4. Strategic Plan References**

- 4.1 The manner in which the Council governs its business is an underpinning mechanism in the Council's Strategic Plan aims to set out the direction and future potential for our Borough.

### **5. Publicity Considerations**

- 5.1 Amendments to the Council's ethical governance policies will be included in the Constitution and will be published on the Council's website.

### **6. Financial, Equality, Diversity and Human Rights, Consultation, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 None.

The Ethical Governance policies can be found by clicking [here](#) or by following the pathway [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk) /Your Council/ Committees, Agendas and Minutes/Committees /Council/ 02 November 2016