

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Governance Committee - 3 October 2024</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Updated Anti-Fraud, Corruption &amp; Bribery Policy</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Antony Baden – Group Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Matt Stanley</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> Arun District Council is committed to the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and corruption. It is expected that all those who work for, serve or deal with the Council will act in a fair and honest way. Financial resources are essential to delivering all the Council's corporate vision and priorities and the Anti-Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy supports the safeguarding of Council's resources.	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The Council recognizes that the risk of loss through theft, fraud or corruption, both internal and external, is a part of business life that needs to be managed effectively in support of its corporate objectives. The Anti-Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy aims to minimize such losses.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To present the updated Anti-Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy to the Committee.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1. Agrees the proposed amendments and approves the updated Anti-Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy for adoption by the Council; and
- 2.2. Delegates authority to the Group Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer to make consequential changes to the Policy in respect of any organisational / legislative changes and minor typographical corrections.

## 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. The Audit & Governance Committee is the designated body for oversight of the Council's anti-fraud culture.

The Policy sets out Arun's position in relation to fraud, theft, corruption and bribery. This includes the roles and responsibilities of employees and other parties involved in the running of the Council's operations and its approach to the detection and investigation of incidents of fraud or corruption.

#### **4. DETAIL**

- 4.1. The Council's Anti-Fraud, Corruption & Bribery Policy was last updated and approved by Members in 2019. A recent internal audit by the Southern Internal Audit Partnership (SIAP) raised the lack of recent review as an issue.
- 4.2. The Policy has been reviewed and minor updates applied. In line with SIAP comments, the opportunity has also been taken to restructure and better organize the document.
- 4.3. The proposed revised policy is contained in Appendix 1 and the previous policy in Appendix 2.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1. The document has been provided to the Corporate Leadership team for comment.

#### **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- 6.1. The Committee could request further information or changes to the final document prior to its adoption.

#### **7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 7.1. Whilst there are no direct financial implications associated with this policy, it is designed to minimize the risk of loss through theft, fraud or corruption from internal and external parties. It cannot be a foolproof safeguard, but the policy plays a key role in the optimizing the Council's resources and the provision of local services.
- 7.2. Adoption of the policy will enable the Group Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer to implement a recommendation from a recent internal audit report on the Council's Anti-Fraud framework, which advised that the policy be revisited and approved by Members.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1. The risk of fraud is inherent in the Council and all businesses. In order to reduce the risk of such incidents, the Council must have a published policy detailing its position and actions to be taken to prevent, detect and investigate fraud and corruption and all employees and other interested parties made aware of this.

## **9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

- 9.1. The Council could incur financial loss if it fails to implement and cascade adequate policies and procedures to prevent fraud, corruption and bribery as well as keeping abreast of new initiatives reassessing our processes against suggested best practice. By having adequate policies and procedures in place this can support a credible defence against any possible action against the Council.

## **10.HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 10.1. There are no impacts.

## **11.HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

- 11.1. There are no impacts.

## **12.PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

- 12.1. There are no impacts.

## **13.EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

- 13.1. There are no impacts.

## **14.CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

- 14.1. There are no impacts.

## **15.CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 15.1. There are no impacts.

## **16.HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

- 16.1. There are no impacts.

## **17.FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

- 17.1. There are no specific FOI or Data Protection implications.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:**

Name: Stephen Pearse  
Job Title: Internal Audit Manager  
Contact Number: 01903 737561

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

N/A