



City of Westminster

# Audit and Performance Committee Report

<b>Meeting:</b>	Audit and Performance Committee
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
<b>Classification:</b>	For General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Counter Fraud Policy Review 2021/22
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the application of approved anti-fraud policies is intended to protect the Council against loss through fraud and corruption.
<b>Report of:</b>	Gerald Almeroth, Executive Director of Finance and Resources
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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Audit and Performance Committee is responsible for the effective scrutiny of anti-fraud arrangements and activities, the Committee:
- review and approve anti-fraud policies
  - is responsible for gaining assurance that policies are kept up to date and are fit for purpose.
- 1.2 This paper contains three revised anti-fraud policies, reported in *Appendix 1*, for review and approval. They are:
- Fraud Response Plan
  - Anti-Bribery Policy
  - Anti-Money Laundering Policy

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee approve the revised anti-fraud and corruption policies.

## **3. Reasons for decisions**

3.1 To inform the Committee of policy revisions and to provide assurance that policies are kept up to date and are fit for purpose.

## **4. Anti-fraud policies**

4.1 Minimising any losses to fraud and corruption is an essential part of ensuring that all of the Council's resources are used for the purposes for which they are intended.

4.2 Staff are often the first to spot possible cases of wrongdoing at an early stage and are therefore encouraged and, indeed, expected to raise any concern that they may have, without fear of recrimination. Any concerns raised will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be properly investigated.

4.3 It is therefore vitally important that anti-fraud policies are kept up to date to support and guide Council staff, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, giving guidance for decision-making, and streamlining internal processes.

**David Hughes**  
**Director of Internal Audit, Risk, Fraud & Insurance**

**Local Government Access to Information Act – background papers used:**  
Case Management Information

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