

To: Audit & Governance Committee
Date: 11 March 2019
Report of: Head of Financial Services
Title of Report: Anti-Bribery, Fraud and Corruption Policy

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report:

1. To inform Members of the new Anti-Bribery, Fraud & Corruption Policy and seek approval for adoption into Council Policy

Key decision Yes

Executive lead member: Councillor Ed Turner

Policy Framework: Corporate Plan Priority – Efficient & Effective Council

Recommendation(s): That the report be approved.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Oxford City Council Anti-Bribery, Fraud & Corruption Policy

Background

1. It is important that Oxford City Council is committed to preventing and detecting bribery, fraud and corruption and that there is a policy in place to affirm that any instances will be thoroughly investigated with appropriate action taken.
2. The new policy comprehensively sets out responsibilities, scope, definitions, legal framework, and preventative measures in place to prevent bribery, fraud and corruption.
3. For the policy to be effective, it is the responsibility of every employee, Member and contractor to be familiar with the policy and its content.
4. Training and awareness platforms will be reviewed in order to effectively communicate the new policy to all Council employees and Members.
5. The new policy replaces and supersedes the Avoiding Bribery, Fraud and Corruption Policy, last reviewed in 2013.

Legal Implications

6. Failure to have an Anti-Bribery, Fraud and Corruption Policy in place would expose the organisation to risk. The Bribery Act 2010 introduced a strict liability offence for companies and partnerships of failing to prevent bribery. The introduction of this corporate criminal offence places a burden of proof on local authorities to show that they have adequate procedures in place to prevent bribery. The Council could be guilty of an offence if an 'associated person' carries out an act of bribery in connection with its business.
7. The Policy has been subject to review by the Legal Services team and meets the required legal standard for compliance with legislation.

Financial Implications

8. The Council must have measure in place to protect itself against financial impropriety, dishonesty and irregularity. The adoption of this policy mitigates the position through solidifying the stance taken by the organisation, as well as increasing awareness and vigilance amongst employees and Members.

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