



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Audit and Governance Committee

23 November 2020

Report Title:	Anti-Fraud Bribery & Corruption Update
Cabinet Portfolio	Finance and Governance
Cabinet Member	Councillor Martin Bond
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
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Borough priorities Please mark X for any priority supported by this report NB Use Section 4 - Background Information to explain how each selected priority is supported	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	X
	Promote good health, independence and care across our communities	X
	Create safe and strong communities for our residents	X
	Support a strong, diverse and well-connected local economy	X
	Create a green, thriving and vibrant place to be proud of	X
	Be a modern, efficient and effective Council	X

1. Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy, an annual report is required to be provided to the Audit & Governance Committee on performance in relation to anti-fraud, bribery and corruption.
- 1.2 The attached report details the work undertaken by Benefits and Local Taxation and Internal Audit in respect of fraud and irregularity.
- 1.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy which has been reviewed. The document is serving the Authority well, remains fit for purpose and is in accordance with professional standards.
- 1.4 Attached at Appendix 2 is the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Plan 2019/20 which details the progress made by Internal Audit to date.

2 Recommendations for Decision

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to:
 - i) **note the report**
 - ii) **approve the Anti-Fraud Bribery and Corruption Strategy**

3 Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 One of the core functions of the Audit and Governance Committee is to monitor the effectiveness of the control environment, including arrangements managing the Council's exposure to the risks of fraud and corruption.
- 3.2 The purpose of the report is to update the Audit and Governance Committee on the anti-fraud, bribery and corruption arrangements during 2019/20 to enable the Committee to fulfil this role.

4 Background / Reasons for the Recommendations

- 4.1 It is a requirement of the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy that an annual report is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee to provide an update on activity in relation to fraud and irregularity.

5 Consideration of Alternatives

N/A

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 That the Audit and Governance Committee be recommended to note performance and activity in relation to fraud and irregularity and approve the Anti-Fraud Bribery and Corruption Strategy.

7 Implications

N/A

8 Background papers

- 8.1 CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Strategy
- 9.2 Appendix 2 - Internal Audit Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Plan 2019/20 Progress.