



Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee (GARMS)

Title	Counter Fraud Framework (CFF) Policy Statement and Whistleblowing Policy Review 2024
Date of meeting	15 April 2024
Report of	Executive Director of Assurance & Public Protection Assistant Director Counter Fraud, Community Safety & Protection Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Manager
Wards	N/A
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Appendices	Appendix 1 – CFF – Counter Fraud, Bribery, and Corruption Policy Statement 2024 Appendix 2 – CFF – Prosecution and Sanction Policy Statement 2024 Appendix 3 – Whistleblowing Policy 2024
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Summary

The Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards (GARMS) Committee has responsibility for the oversight of the Counter Fraud Framework and Whistleblowing Policy Documents.

These documents have been reviewed for 2024. There are no suggested or required 'policy' changes and only minor administrative amendments have been made.

However, as the last full review of the documents was in 2021, and under previous Governance arrangements, the documents are attached in full at appendix 1, 2 and 3 – marked with track changes, so that that members of GARMS Committee can fully review and comment on the policies currently in place.

Recommendations

1. That the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee approves the updated Counter Fraud Framework and Whistleblowing Policy documents for 2024.
2. That Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee delegate future administrative changes to the Executive Director of Assurance and Public Protection.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1.1 The Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards (GARMS) Committee has responsibility for the oversight of the Counter Fraud Framework and Whistleblowing Policy Documents.

Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

2.1 Not Relevant

Post Decision Implementation

3.1 Subject to approval, they will come into effect immediately and also be updated on the council's website.

Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

Corporate Plan

- 4.1 Our Plan for Barnet (the corporate plan 2023 -2026) was adopted in March 2023.
- 4.2 The work of Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) and subsequent policies is aligned with the Council's objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2023-2026, and thus supports the delivery of those objectives.

Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures

- 4.3 The Council has a responsibility to protect the public purse through proper administration and control of the public funds and assets to which it has been entrusted.
- 4.4 CAFT provide 6 monthly and annual updates to GARMS on the work of the team.

Sustainability

4.5 None in the context of this decision.

Corporate Parenting

4.6 None in the context of this decision.

Risk Management

4.7 All CAFT activity is directed toward mitigating fraud risk and providing assurance about fraud risk management within the areas examined. By so doing the aim is to help maximise the achievement of the Council's objectives.

Insight

4.8 None in the context of this decision

Social Value

4.9 None in the context of this decision
Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)
5.1 The Council has a responsibility to protect the public purse through proper administration and control of the public funds and assets to which it has been entrusted.
Legal Implications and Constitution References
6.1 Under Part 2B, paragraph 2.4.11 of the constitution, one of the functions of GARMS is to monitor the effective development and operation of the Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) and approve the Counter Fraud Framework. Under paragraph 2.4.16 another of its functions is to agree and have oversight of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.
Consultation
7.1 Not required
Equalities and Diversity
8.1 Effective systems of Fraud risk management and investigation provide assurance on the effective allocation of resources and quality of service provision for the benefit of the entire community. Individual investigations are reviewed as appropriate, the differential aspects on different groups of individuals to ensure compliance with the Council's duties under the 2010 Equality Act.
Background Papers
N/A