

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh – Head of Audit and Risk
Date of Decision/ Meeting	7 March 2019

FRAUD PREVENTION CHARTER 2019/2020

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To obtain approval for the Fraud Prevention Charter 2019/2020.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Fraud Prevention Charter for 2019/2020.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the Council have robust processes in place to tackle fraud and corruption.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

3.4 None.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is organisational resilience.

5.0 Background Information

Blackpool Council is committed to the prevention of fraud and corruption. It is important that Blackpool Council uses its income and resources in the most effective way for the delivery of high quality services to the community.

Blackpool Council requires all employees and elected members to act honestly, with integrity and to safeguard the public resources for which they are responsible. Blackpool Council also expects the same levels of honesty and integrity from all

individuals and companies dealing with the Council. The Council will take appropriate action when fraud, bribery or corruption is suspected.

The Fraud Prevention Charter sets out the Council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Statement which outlines the Council's zero tolerance approach when dealing with fraud, corruption and bribery. It also outlines the fraud risk assessment and associated counter fraud programme which is based on best practice guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to ensure that it takes account of emerging threats and focuses on priority fraud risks.

5.1 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.2 List of Appendices:

Appendix 7(a) – Fraud Prevention Charter 2019/2020

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Fraud Prevention Charter ensures that the Council follows the appropriate legal framework for fraud investigation.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 When staffing matters are being investigated this will be done in conjunction with HR to ensure that employment law factors are adhered to.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 The plan is based on a fraud risk assessment of all Council services.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The prevention and detection of fraud helps reduce losses faced by the Council.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The plan is based on a fraud risk assessment of all Council services.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 Each fraud investigation will be undertaken following the appropriate regulations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Approval was obtained from the Corporate Leadership Team on 29 January 2019.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.