

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk
Date of Meeting	25 March 2021

FRAUD PREVENTION CHARTER 2021/2022

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To obtain approval from the Audit Committee for the Fraud Prevention Charter 2021/2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Audit Committee is asked to approve the Fraud Prevention Charter for 2021/2022.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The Fraud Prevention Charter contributes to the achievement of all of the Council's priorities.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Blackpool Council is committed to the prevention of fraud and corruption. It is important that the 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.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 8(a) – Fraud Prevention Charter 2021/2022

8.0 Financial considerations:

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

9.0 Legal considerations:

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

10.0 Risk management considerations:

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

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders across the Council. The plan was approved by the Corporate Leadership Team on 9 February 2021.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 Local Government Association – Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2020
Cabinet Office - National Fraud Initiative Report 2020