

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING****8 December 2020****Report of the Assistant Director of Finance (Audit)****ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S REGULATORY FRAMEWORK****1. Purpose of Report**

The Audit Committee has been designated by the Council as the committee charged with ensuring the on-going effectiveness of the Authority's overall governance arrangements.

This report updates Members on the continued effectiveness of the Council's Constitution, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders relating to Contracts, Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Strategy, Fraud Response Plan, Whistleblowing Policy and Codes of Conduct for Members and Employees.

**2. Information & Analysis**

The Council's Constitution, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders relating to Contracts, Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Strategy, Fraud Response Plan, Whistleblowing Policy and Codes of Conduct for Members and Employees form a key part of the overall governance framework of the Authority.

Members have previously decided that officers should provide an annual report on:-

- the continued relevance of these documents;
- the extent of any noted non-compliance with the requirements detailed which had been disclosed during the year;
- the need for any potential review or amendment of their contents; and
- those measures taken to ensure that the requirements contained within these regulations were made known to staff.

The Governance Group is chaired by the Managing Executive Director of Commissioning, Communities and Policy and is comprised of the Director of Finance & ICT, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Director of Organisation Development and Policy, Assistant Director of Finance (Audit) and a Service/Assistant Director from each Department. The Group has two main purposes:-

- to promote and enhance a robust governance and assurance framework which supports the global functions of Derbyshire County Council and the continuous development of the Council's Annual Governance Statement;
- to support the work of the Council's Audit Committee and the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee.

In addition the Head of Paid Service (HoPS) holds meetings which involve the Director of Finance & ICT, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Director of Organisation Development and Policy, and Assistant Director of Finance (Audit). These meetings, which are timed to coincide with those of the Governance Group, consider agenda items for the Group and support the HoPS in her role as the chair.

The previous Director of Legal and Democratic Services undertook a significant review and refresh of the Constitution which was approved by Council on 15 May 2019. Similarly Financial Regulations and Standing Orders relating to Contracts were reviewed, refreshed and approved by Council on 6 February 2019.

The Anti Fraud and Anti Corruption Strategy and Fraud Response Plan have been reviewed. The review of the Whistleblowing Policy is currently underway and Codes of Conduct for Members and Employees require review, which will be undertaken as part of the work scheduled for the Governance Group. The Code of Conduct for Members will be reviewed in response to the Model Code and Local Government Association Guidance in the New Year; the Code of Conduct for Employees was last reviewed in 2015.

Any revisions to the Code of Conduct for Members is the responsibility of Council, oversight of the Whistleblowing Policy is the responsibility of the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee, whilst the Code of Conduct for Employees is the responsibility of the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee.

These key documents underpin the Council's governance framework and compliance will continue to be assessed by Audit Services as part of our work.

### **3. Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

### **4. Background Papers**

A file held by the Assistant Director of Finance (Audit).

### **5. Officer's Recommendation**

That the Committee note the current status of, and arrangements for the review of those key policies underpinning the Council's governance framework

**Carl Hardman**  
**Assistant Director of Finance (Audit)**