

Meeting of:	GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	19 JUNE 2025
Report Title:	ANTI-FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION POLICY
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING & CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	NIGEL SMITH GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy forms part of the policy framework.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. This review provides minor amendments to the policy for the Governance and Audit Committee to consider, prior to the updated Policy being presented to Cabinet for approval.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to the Governance and Audit Committee the updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy for review and comment, prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy should be reviewed regularly to ensure it is kept up to date. The last update was in February 2019. The Policy with the proposed changes is attached at **Appendix A** with the amended Policy at **Appendix B**. Any recommendations of the Committee will be considered and the Policy amended as necessary prior to submitting to Cabinet for approval.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 The key changes to the Policy are:

- Title – renamed from ‘Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy’ to ‘Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy’ to reflect that corruption is recognised as a pervasive form of fraud and a significant threat to public trust, financial stability and economic development. Corruption encompasses a wider range of fraudulent activities including embezzlement, abuse of power and extortion. References throughout the document have been updated.

- Para 2.1 & 2.2 – addition of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (ECCTA) 2023.
- Para 2.6 and 2.7 – updating the definition of money laundering and adding in the definition of corruption.
- Para 5.19 – adding the Council's fraud investigation section.
- Para 6.4 – amending the declaration limit for gifts for employees to £25.

A number of other minor grammatical/presentational amendments have been made.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications as a result of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Governance and Audit Committee considers the updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy at **Appendix A** and notes that, subject to any amendments requested by the Committee, the revised Policy at **Appendix B** will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Background documents

None