

Report to **Policy & Resources Committee**
Date **20 November 2025**
By **Head of Finance and Corporate Services**
Title of Report **Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy**
Decision

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

I. Approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy at Appendix I.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Policy and Resources Committee has terms of reference which include “... provide assurance as to the adequacy of arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.”
- 1.2 This revised policy has been based on best practice and is considered proportionate for the level of identified risk in the Authority.
- 1.3 Members are asked to approve the revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (**Appendix I**) to support the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption within the Authority.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy will support the Authority in maintaining the highest standards of integrity, assist in discharging its responsibility to safeguard public funds and protect its reputation.
- 2.2 This policy should be considered alongside existing policies including Disciplinary Policy, Complaints Policy and Financial Standing Orders, amongst others.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy was last considered and approved by the Authority in June 2016. The revised document is set out at **Appendix I**.
- 3.2 The significant changes to the policy include:
- The inclusion of volunteers to the scope of the policy;
 - The addition of procurement policy and financial regulations to the related policies;
 - Updating the relevant legislation;
 - Updating the relevant Authority Committees;
 - The addition of an annual Fraud and Corruption Risk Assessment;
 - Explicit references to fraud clauses in contracts; and
 - Improved induction and training.

4. Options and Cost implications

4.1 The Authority is required under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to “make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.” Ensuring the Authority has appropriate policies and processes in place to prevent and detect fraud and corruption is an important aspect of these arrangements.

4.2 Detection and prevention of fraud and corruption are key aspects of the organisation’s governance and are undertaken within existing corporate budgets.

5. Next steps

5.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy will be communicated throughout the organisation to ensure the Policy and Guidance is embedded in both operations and decision making. Training will be rolled out in line with the Policy.

6. Other Implications

| Implication | Yes*/No |
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| Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority? | No |
| Does the proposal raise any Resource implications? | There are no additional resource requirements arising directly from this report. Any additional resources required will be subject to the Authority’s usual decision-making requirements. |
| How does the proposal represent Value for Money? | Detecting and preventing fraud and corruption contributes to the efficient running of the organisation. |
| Which PMP Outcomes/ Corporate plan objectives does this deliver against | Fraud and corruption detection and prevention at the SDNPA underpins the effective delivery of PMP Outcomes and Corporate Plan Priorities. |
| Links to other projects or partner organisations | As the SDNPA works in partnership with many other organisations, anti-fraud and corruption processes will inevitably impact partnership working. |
| How does this decision contribute to the Authority’s climate change objectives? | Fraud and corruption could risk the Authority’s reputation which would negatively impact its ability to achieve its climate change objectives. |
| Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal? | No |
| Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority’s equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010? | The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy supports the Authority’s efforts to ensure fair treatment for all and to eliminate unlawful discrimination. As individuals with certain protected characteristics can be at a higher risk of exploitation this Policy and its associated processes helps to mitigate those risks. |
| Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal? | There are no implications arising from this report. |

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| Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal? | This Policy supports the Authority in the detection and prevention of fraud and corruption. |
| Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal? | There are no implications arising from this report. |
| Are there any Data Protection implications? | There are no implications arising from this report. |

7. Risks Associated with the proposed decision

- 7.1 Poor anti-fraud and corruption procedures at the Authority would likely open the Authority to a significant range of risks. The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy seeks to ensure effective detection and prevention of these risks at the Authority that contribute to the Authority achieving its objectives and delivering on its purposes and duty.

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 Internal Consultees: Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, Operational Management Team
 External Consultees: CIPFA guidance
 Appendices: I. Revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
 Background Documents: None

