



Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy Statement

Adopted: draft February 2015

Review Date: February 2018

It is the policy of Somerton Town Council to promote a culture of honesty, openness and fairness, which is committed to the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption, and to ensure that all instances of fraud and corruption are investigated properly and thoroughly and to actively pursue the appropriate level of disciplinary action”

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Council’s approved Financial Regulations and Standing Orders, which set out the framework for the management of the Council’s finances.

The Audit Commission defines fraud and corruption as follows: -

- Fraud is the intentional distortion of financial statements, accounts or other records by persons internal or external to the authority, which is carried out to conceal the misappropriation of assets or otherwise for gain or to mislead or misrepresent.

- Corruption is the offering, giving, soliciting or acceptance of an inducement or reward which may influence the action of any person to act against the interests of an organisation, or the deliberate failure to disclose an interest in order to obtain a financial or other pecuniary gain for oneself or another.

The following list provides some common examples of what constitutes fraud and corruption, although the list is not exhaustive: -

- Theft of Council property;
- Unauthorised use of public funds;
- Forgery or deliberate alteration of any document e.g. cheque;
- Destruction or removal of records;
- Falsifying of expense claims;
- Disclosing confidential information to outside parties, without authority, for personal gain;
- Computer misuse;
- Misuse of intellectual property;
- Conduct which is an offence or a breach of law;
- Disclosures related to miscarriages of justice;
- Health and safety risks, including risk to the public;
- Damage to the environment;
- Other unethical conduct.

Responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the Policy lies with the Town Clerk who will also ensure that the Policy is regularly reviewed and updated where relevant.