

Somerset West and Taunton

Audit and Governance Committee – 13 September 2021

SWAP Internal Audit – Baseline Assessment of Maturity in relation to Fraud

Report Author: David Warren, Principal Investigation Officer, SWAP

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Local authorities have responsibilities for the effective stewardship of public money and for safeguarding against losses due to fraud and corruption. The Audit and Governance Committee should have oversight of the authority's counter fraud strategy, assessing whether it meets recommended practice and governance standards and complies with legislation such as the Bribery Act 2010.
- 1.2 To assist in this oversight a baseline assessment was completed at Somerset West and Taunton Council in line with requirements of the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy. Each of the 27 requirements were given a red, amber or green, rating based on a corporate view across the organisation. A summary from the completed audit was provided within the Internal Audit Outturn Report presented to this Committee in June 2021. Members of the Audit and Governance Committee also received, via e-mail, the full audit report for SWT together with the cross-partner benchmarking report.
- 1.3 At the June 2021 Audit and Governance Committee Members requested that a more detailed update on the Baseline Assessment of Maturity in relation to Fraud be provided. This item to allow the Principal Investigation Officer to summarise this piece of work to Members and to allow Members to ask any further questions.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note further information provided on the Baseline Assessment of Maturity in relation to Fraud.

3 Risk Assessment (if appropriate)

- 3.1 Any large organisation needs to have a well-established and systematic risk management framework in place to identify and mitigate the risks it may face. SWT has a risk management framework, and within that, individual internal audit reports deal with the specific risk issues that arise from the findings. These are translated into mitigating actions and timetables for management to implement.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

4.1 The attached SWAP Information summarises the key findings from the Audit.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

5.1 Delivery of the corporate objectives requires strong internal control, which include adequate measure to deter, detect and respond to any frauds identified. Incidents of fraud can reduce the available resources for front line services and corporate priorities.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

6.1 There are no specific finance issues relating to this report.

7 Legal Implications (if any)

7.1 There are no specific legal issues relating to this report.

8 Climate and Sustainability Implications (if any)

8.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any)

9.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications (if any)

10.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

11 Social Value Implications (if any)

11.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

12 Partnership Implications (if any)

12.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any)

13.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

14 Asset Management Implications (if any)

14.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

15 Data Protection Implications (if any)

15.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

16 Consultation Implications (if any)

16.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

17 Scrutiny Comments / Recommendation(s) (if any)

N/A

Democratic Path:

- **Audit and Governance Committee – Yes**
- **Cabinet/Executive – No**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: Once

List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)

Appendix A	Baseline Assessment of Maturity in relation to Fraud.
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