



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Counter Fraud Framework

Introduction

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has adopted a stance of zero tolerance to all forms of fraud, bribery, and corruption. The aim of this framework is to provide an effective framework to protect Council resources from fraud and corruption.

The Corporate Plan

Our corporate plan for 2024 to 2028 sets out our vision in creating great places to live, work and enjoy. This plan will be supported and delivered by council services working together as one team and with trusted partners in accordance with the council's key values.

Commitments set out in this plan will not duplicate or replace existing partner responsibilities or functions.

- **People:** Helping people to stay safe, healthy, active, and in employment
- **Places:** Creating clean, sustainable and attractive places to live, visit and work in
- **Prosperity:** Encouraging sustainable commercial economic and housing growth, as well as attracting businesses, improving skills and supporting regeneration

Good governance is essential to meet these ambitions to meet legal requirements and to uphold public expectations in the appropriate use of funds in making good use of resources.

Having a holistic approach to tackling fraud is part of good governance to minimise risks of fraud losses and financial irregularity against the Council. This means public money can be used for delivering the Council's priorities.

This framework supports the Council's Corporate Plan, vision, and key priorities. It will support the Council to provide good

value services for local residents and communities.

Our objective

We will protect Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's resources from fraud and corruption. We have a culture where Officers are accountable for their actions and are empowered to make decisions so that fraud, bribery, and corruption risks are managed. There is a zero tolerance to all forms of fraud, bribery, and corruption.

The goals for this framework

We aim to:

- a) identify fraud risks as part of our management arrangements and evaluate what this means for the Council including any new and emerging risks
- b) ensure our Members and Officers have awareness of fraud, bribery, and corruption risks, their impacts and what the Council does to minimise these risks
- c) ensure our counter fraud, anti-bribery, and anti-corruption measures are proportionate to risks
- d) develop and maintain a culture where Officers and Members are accountable for their actions
- e) help our Officers to feel empowered to make decisions so that fraud, bribery, and corruption risks are managed well
- f) ensure effective internal control measures are in place to make it more difficult for fraud and error to occur
- g) demonstrate that the Council has taken steps to achieve fraud savings and recoveries including sanctions where appropriate
- h) protect the wider public purse through strategic partnerships
- i) continue to deliver a best practice response meeting professional guidance and responding to any changes in legislation

Making it happen: Our response to fraud

We acknowledge that there are inherent risks of fraud, bribery, and corruption against the Council. Strong governance and an ethical culture can build resilience against these risks.

We are clear on our vision to protect our resources from risks of fraud and corruption.

Hinckley and Bosworth Council will continue to take a zero-tolerance stance to all forms of fraud, bribery, and corruption. To help us deliver our vision, we will align our framework and local response to national best practice. Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) provides a national framework in response to economic crime and fraud. FFCL is endorsed by a range of organisations including the Local Government Association, CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre, SOLACE, and counter fraud experts from numerous English local authorities.

Governance	Acknowledge	Prevent	Pursue	Protect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Maintaining our robust arrangements and executive support to ensure anti-fraud, bribery and corruption measures are embedded throughout the Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Access and demonstrate and understanding of our fraud risks • Committing suitable support and resource to tackling fraud through an anti-fraud response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an effective counter fraud, bribery, and corruption culture • Enhance fraud, bribery, and corruption controls and processes • Make best use of information and technology • Communicate activity and successes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and recovery losses due to fraud thought suitable legal action • developing capability and capacity to investigate fraud • working with partners to prevent fraud • Provide training to staff and Members on fraud and how to prevent it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the harm that fraud, bribery, and corruption can cause in the community • Protect the Council and its residents from fraud, bribery, and corruption

Our response to fraud, bribery, and corruption will be:

- Risk based following an assessment of fraud, bribery, and corruption risks
- Proportionate to risks faced
- Completed with due diligence
- Communicated
- Monitored and reviewed

We will also draw on the expertise of an accredited counter fraud specialist as required