

**HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY  
ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STATEMENT 2016/17**

**Introduction**

1. Humberside Fire Authority (HFA) is committed to the highest possible standards of integrity, openness, probity and accountability. The management of the risk of fraud and corruption and ensuring that effective counter fraud arrangements are in place are key elements of Corporate Governance.
2. Our Communities expect the HFA to conduct its affairs with integrity, honesty, openness and to demand the highest standards of conduct from those working for it.
3. The (HFA) recognises that sound systems of public accountability are vital to effective management and to maintain confidence in the Service and is committed to protecting the public funds entrusted to it. This Anti-Fraud & Corruption Statement outlines the HFA's commitment to creating an anti-fraud culture and maintaining high ethical standards in its administration of public funds. A culture of honesty and openness is a key element in tackling fraud.
4. In order to prevent, discourage and detect fraud, the Authority has in place and will continue to develop appropriate controls and procedures. These are inter-related and are designed to frustrate fraud or corruption. They cover culture, prevention, detection and training.
5. Actions around Fraud, Corruption and Bribery form part of the Authority's commitment to robust governance arrangements.

**Key Actions during 2016/17**

6. Training and overview sessions were provided to Fire Authority, GAS Members and Senior Managers during 2016/17. This will be extended to staff throughout the organisation in the coming year.
7. Existing policies, strategies and plans were reviewed during 2016/17 and two new policies were introduced.
  - a) Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy / Anti-Fraud & Corruption Procedure (Fraud Response Plan);
  - b) Whistleblowing Strategy / Whistleblowing Procedure;
  - c) Anti-Bribery Policy (New Policy introduced 2016/17);
  - d) Anti-Money Laundering Policy (New Policy introduced 2016/17).
8. There were no reported or identified occurrences of Fraud, Bribery or Corruption during 2016/17. However, the organisation remains vigilant and constantly reviews the environment.

**Assurance**

9. The Authority has effective fidelity insurance arrangements in place. This cover is for all employees up to £250k.
10. Two Members of the GAS Committee have portfolio responsibility for scrutiny of measures to combating fraud across the Authority.

11. We have arrangements in place to utilise Internal Audit if required to investigate suspected cases of fraud.
12. We periodically draw to the attention of staff the relevant policies. This is usually through messages in payslips and entries in internal communications.
13. We maintain our knowledge, assurance and best practice to deal with current fraud risks and issues through our relationship with Internal Audit. We also receive and disseminate alerts via our Internal Auditors (MIAA)
14. We challenge ourselves through Internal and External audit provision to ensure our procedures are robust and current.
15. We continue to fully participate in the Cabinet Office's National Fraud Initiative (NFI) and receive reports on the outcomes. We are currently producing data for the 2017 round.
16. We have appropriate arrangements in place that encourage staff to raise their concerns. The Whistleblowing policy and distribution of literature around the Public Concern at Work service further support our internal actions.

#### **Links and Further Information**

17. [Counter Fraud Arrangements, Internal Audit Report 2016/17.](#)
18. [Relevant Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policies and Strategy.](#)

**Signed:**

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Chair of the Humberside Fire Authority

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Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive