

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

Meeting	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Date	11 MARCH 2024
Report of	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLERK
Report Sponsor(s)	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT
Subject	COUNTER FRAUD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Counter Fraud Strategies, policies and linked documents have been updated. These documents form part of the constitution of the Authority so need approval by the Audit and Governance Committee on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

The following documents have been updated:

- SYFRA Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy
- SYFRA Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- SYFRA Fraud Response Plan
- SYFRA Corporate Prosecution Policy
- SYFRA Anti Bribery Policy
- Gifts, Hospitality and Discounts Policy

Versions of the documents are submitted for review with tracked changes so members can easily identify updated sections. The main changes reflected in the documents are:

- Updated dates on review
- Owner changed from Director or Support Services to Director of Finance and Procurement
- The documents have been amended to say that all fraud will be referred to the Police who will then decide whether to pursue the case. The previous versions said Barnsley Internal Audit, (who are no longer our auditors), may choose to prosecute under the Local Government Act Powers.
- Updated to state that Director of Finance and Procurement will have the lead responsibility for counter fraud, previously this was Internal Audit when this was provided by Barnsley In house functions. The Director of Finance and Procurement will commission support from IA or in house specialists as needed to complete investigations.
- The Fraud Response plan has been shortened to remove detail relating to Internal Audits previous approaches and to reflect the existing responsibilities.
- The Anti-bribery policy is updated to reflect the current reporting routes.
- Gifts and Hospitality Policy has updated links to the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) constitution.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members are recommended to:-

- a) Note the changes and approve the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (SYFRA) documents named above.
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Main Report

Appendix 1: SYFRA Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy

Appendix 2: SYFRA Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

Appendix 3: SYFRA Fraud Response Plan

Appendix 4: SYFRA Corporate Prosecution Policy

Appendix 5: SYFRA Anti Bribery Policy

Appendix 6: Gifts, Hospitality and Discounts Policy

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ASPIRATIONS

- Be a great place to work-** we will create the right culture, values and behaviours to make this a brilliant place to work that is inclusive for all
- Put people first-** we will spend money carefully, use our resources wisely and collaborate with others to provide the best deal to the communities we serve
- Strive to be the best in everything we do-** we will work with others, make the most of technology and develop leaders to become the very best at what we can be

CONTRIBUTION TO SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

- [HMICFRS Inspection Framework e.g. Diagnostic area and/ or diagnostic questions](#)
- [SYFR Inspection report Areas for Improvement \(AFIs\)](#)
- [Fit for the Future Improvement Objectives](#)
- [Professional Standards for Fire & Rescue Services in England](#)
- [SYFR Service Plan 2023-24 Priorities](#)
- [SYFR Community Risk Management Plan 2021-24](#)

Ensures all funds are spent as intended and for the purposes of SYFR.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

- Yes
- No

If you have ticked 'Yes' please provide brief details in the box below and include the third party/parties it would involve:

CORPORATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY IMPLICATIONS

1. These plans address fraud risks.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

- Yes

If you have ticked 'Yes' please complete the below comment boxes providing details as follows:

Summary of any Adverse Impacts Identified:

Key Mitigating Actions Proposed and Agreed:

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- No
- N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why an EqlA is not required/is outstanding:

We will review the cases and approach for consistency.

HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

- Yes
- No
- N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why a Health and Safety Risk Assessment is not required/is outstanding:

Strategies and policies have no direct H&S impact

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

2. Under the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority [Scheme of Delegation](#) a decision *is required / *has been approved at Service level.

- Delegated Power Yes
 No

If yes, please complete the comments box indicating under which delegated power.

The majority of the documents form Part 6 of the SYFR constitution.

Under Article 16.2 Changes to the Constitution the Monitoring Officer is authorised to update the Constitution taking account of proposals approved by the FRA, Service and Clerk under their delegated powers.

The Articles provide that the Audit and Governance Committee maintains an overview of the Authority's Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy the arrangements for those processes.

IMPLICATIONS

3. Consider whether this report has any of the following implications and if so, address them below: Diversity, Financial, Asset Management, Environmental and Sustainability, Fleet, Communications, ICT, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Collaboration, Legal and Industrial Relations implications have been considered in compiling this report.

List of background documents		
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