



Committee Report

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Committee	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Date	18 MARCH 2024
Title	CORPORATE TAX EVASION POLICY
Report of	CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Executive Summary

1. The Corporate Tax Evasion Policy sets out details of the new Corporate Criminal Offences in relation to the failure to prevent tax evasion under the Criminal Finance Act 2017.
2. The committee is asked to approve the Policy, The Policy will ensure that the Council has fit for purpose arrangements to prevent tax evasion.

Recommendation(s)

3. That the Corporate Tax Evasion Policy be approved.

Background

4. The initial version of the Corporate Tax Evasion Policy was approved by the Audit Committee on the 20 November 2020. The Corporate Tax Evasion Policy presented to this meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee contains minor revisions only, to increase clarity and reflect changes to staff in post.

Corporate Priorities and Strategic Context

5. Sound governance arrangements, including up to date policies, are necessary to support all of the council's strategic objectives, specific to anti-tax evasion arrangements these help to ensure a financially balanced and sustainable council.

Provision of affordable housing for Island Residents

6. There are no direct impacts within this report that will affect this corporate priority.

Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere

7. The work of Internal Audit supports making the council more accountable and transparent, through the publishing of the results of audits as part of committee papers, publicly available on the council's website.

The council's Corporate Tax Evasion Policy supports making the council more accountable by ensuring that there are appropriate mechanisms to identify and respond to any instances of tax irregularity. Partnership goals are supported by helping to ensure that financial information is accurate.



Economic Recovery and Reducing Poverty

8. There are no direct impacts within this report that will affect this corporate priority.

Impact on Young People and Future Generations

9. There are no direct impacts within this report that will affect this corporate priority.

Corporate Aims

10. Supports the Corporate Plan core value of being "fair and transparent".

Consultation And Engagement

11. Consultation takes place with the senior staff within the Legal and Finance teams.

Financial / Budget Implications

12. There are no financial implications to the council adopting the Corporate Tax Evasion Policy.

Legal Implications

13. The Legal implications are incorporated within the body of the policy. There are no other immediate legal implications arising from this report.

Equality And Diversity

14. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. It is considered that there are no direct equality and diversity implications of this report for any of the protected groups.

Property Implications

15. There are no direct impacts within this report with property implications.

Risk Management

16. The revised policy with support the council in addressed risk stemming from tax evasion.

Appendices Attached

17. Appendix 1 – Corporate Tax Evasion Policy.

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