

RESPONSIBILITY

The Mayor and all Councillors, together with the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Management Team hold principal responsibility for ensuring the objectives of this policy are achieved.

OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

Objectives – The objectives of this policy are to:

- prevent and mitigate the effects of fraud and corruption against Council, thereby contributing to the maintenance of the organisation's integrity and reputation.
- outline the strategies and activities Council has in place to mitigate fraud and corruption.

Performance measures:

- Number of cases of fraud or corruption
- Total cost to the organisation of fraud and corruption

POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to:

- minimising the risk of fraud and corruption;
- taking a risk management approach to the prevention, identification and management of fraud and corruption;
- reducing or removing the potential for fraudulent or corrupt conduct on the part of its councillors, employees, contractors, clients and suppliers;
- detecting fraudulent or corrupt conduct through supervision and systematic processes including Council's Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Plan;
- investigating or otherwise formally enquiring into all instances of suspected fraudulent or corrupt conduct exposed as a result of our detection processes, or as a result of receiving an allegation of fraudulent or corrupt activities;
- managing, disciplining or facilitating the prosecution of those responsible for incidents of fraud and corruption as appropriate; and
- ensuring the continuing organisational integrity and transparency of its operations.

Council will act on any suspicion of fraudulent or corrupt conduct on the part of its Councillors, staff or any party with whom it conducts business.

Councillors and council officers have a responsibility and an obligation to report suspected or known incidents of fraud or corruption.

Council will take appropriate action against anyone who takes reprisal action against a person who reports suspected or known incidents in line with Council's obligations under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010.

Council recognises that fraud and corruption prevention and control are integral components of good governance and risk management.

SCOPE

Fraud and corruption can harm Council's credibility, the public's confidence, and Council's relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

This policy applies to Councillors, temporary, casual and permanent employees, labour hire personnel and volunteers. Fraud and corruption covers the prospect of loss or improper gain or benefit, both financial and non-financial.

DEFINITIONS

Corrupt Conduct – as per s15 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Corruption - dishonest activity in which a councillor or an employee of an organisation acts contrary to the interest of the organisation, in order to achieve some gain or advantage, or to avoid loss or disadvantage, for the councillor, employee or for another person or entity. Corruption can include, but is not limited to behaviour such as fraud, deception, and misuse of a position or authority.

Council – Gympie Regional Council

Fraud - Dishonest activity causing actual or potential loss to any person or entity including theft of moneys or other property by councillors, employees or persons external to the entity and where deception is used at the time, immediately before or immediately following the activity. This also includes the deliberate falsification, concealment, destruction or use of falsified documentation used or intended for use for a normal purpose or the improper use of information or position for personal benefit.

RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Councillor Code of Conduct
Dealing with complaints involving the public official
Disciplinary Action Procedure
Staff Code of Conduct
Public Interest Disclosure Process
Risk Management Policy

LEGISLATION

Crime and Corruption Act 2001
Criminal Code Act 1899
Integrity Act 2009
Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010
Public Sector Ethics Act 1994
Right to Information Act 2009
Local Government Act 2009
Local Government Regulation 2012

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

CMC 2005, Fraud and Corruption Control: guidelines for best practice CMC 2005
Fraud and Corruption Control - Australian Standard AS 8001-2008

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Plan