

AUDIT COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2016

FRAUD AWARENESS TRAINING

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Summary

To provide Members with an update on the deployment of funds allocated for school governor training in relation to fraud awareness.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy forms part of the Council's Constitution and sets out the Council's commitment to ensuring that the risk of fraud and corruption is minimised.

2. Background

2.1 Audit Committee considered a report on the 4 September 2013 regarding the misappropriation of funds from Temple Mill Primary School by the former school business manager and made a number of recommendations regarding the deployment of the recovered funds.

2.2 After consideration the Audit Committee made the following series of recommendations to Cabinet, which were approved on 1 October 2013:

- The reinstatement of the School's Voluntary Fund at a cost of £14,000;
- Replenishment of the School for ICT by the sum of £50,000;
- Enhancement of the Schools teaching environment by the sum of £25,000;
- The creation of an internal audit post to provide internal audit support for schools at a cost of £40,000;
- The remaining balance of any recovered funds should be allocated to governor training.

2.3 The remainder of this report provides an update on the balance of the recovered funds (circa £42,000) provided for governor training.

3. Governor Finance Training and Fraud Awareness

- 3.1 Finance training for school governors is delivered at two levels. Firstly a basic finance induction and then a more in depth training session aimed at governing body finance committee members. Sessions are held every month and each session now includes a section on fraud awareness.
- 3.2 A special one-off training session on fraud awareness was held during September 2014 and approximately 30 school governors attended this training session.
- 3.3 Using the recovered funds, a series of short fraud awareness films has been commissioned to increase the level of fraud awareness for school governors. These web based videos will be animated, interactive e-learning tools and will be accessible by school governors from May 2016.
- 3.4 They will be available for viewing on the governor hub website and are split into six bite size training sessions, which could either be viewed as individual training sessions or as one whole session. Please see appendix A which illustrates the storyboard outlines for each sub section.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report

5. Financial and Legal Implications

- 5.1 This service is a level 2, low risk procurement and was managed in accordance with the contract procedure rules at Chapter 4 of the Constitution. The total cost can be met within the budget available.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Storyboard outlines for Fraud Awareness Video

Background papers

Report to Cabinet: Disbursement of Recovered Funds 1 October 2013

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=2761&Ver=4>

Report to Audit Committee: Temple Mill Primary School Investigation 4 September 2013

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=2884&Ver=4>

Report to Audit Committee: Disbursement of Recovered Funds 11 July 2013

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=20696>

Reports to Audit Committee on the 29 March 2011, 24 November 2011 and the 29 March 2012.