

Council Policy

Fraud and Corruption Control

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to articulate Council's commitment to maintaining trust and building advocacy with the community and its stakeholders through a robust and vigilant fraud and corruption prevention approach.

The Northern Beaches community expects public officials to deliver services with integrity and in the best interests of the public. Fraudulent and corrupt conduct by a public official can result in significant resource costs to Council. It also puts at risk the reputation of all staff, Councillors and delegates and undermines trust with the community.

Accordingly, Northern Beaches Council has a zero-tolerance position on any fraudulent or corrupt behaviour and will act swiftly and decisively through relevant policies, legal or legislative mechanisms to deal with those who engage in, attempt to obscure or in any way participate in or encourage this behaviour.

Council is committed to establishing a framework to prevent fraud and corruption, proactively monitor, maintain and build awareness of its fraud and corruption prevention controls and strategies.

Principles

1. That Council implements a fraud and corruption control plan which is aligned to:
 - a. the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988
 - b. which follows leading practice guidelines for the establishment and maintenance of a Fraud Control Framework set out in the NSW Audit Office's Fraud Control Improvement Kit 2015.
2. That Council will make available the resources to fund the successful implementation of the fraud and corruption control plan.
3. That Council reports fraud and corruption statistics to relevant stakeholders.

Scope and Application

This policy applies to all council officials, ie:

- all council staff and councillors
- permanent employees, whether full-time or part-time
- temporary or casual employees
- all contractors working for or on behalf of Council
- employees of contractors providing services to or on behalf of Council
- other people who perform council official functions, including volunteers and committee and panel members.

References and related documents

- Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 NSW
- Local Government Act 1993 NSW
- NSW Audit Office Fraud Control Policy (August 2018)
- NSW Audit Office's Fraud Control Improvement Kit (February 2015)
- Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct
- Northern Beaches Council Public Interest Disclosure Internal Reporting Policy
- Council values.

Definitions

Contractors: Individuals or entities who perform a task or provide a service to or on behalf of Council, whether or not they are bound by a written contract to do so

Council: Northern Beaches Council

Corrupt conduct: This policy uses the same definition as stated in the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 NSW.

Fraud: Deliberate and premeditated activity which involves the use of deception to gain advantage and/or obtain a financial benefit to the detriment of the Council

Public official: a public official is taken to be a public official as defined under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 NSW and includes an employee (including contractors, temporary and casual staff) of Northern Beaches Council, any individual that undertakes an official public function on behalf of Northern Beaches Council, and Council committee members.

Responsible Officer

Executive Manager Governance and Risk

Review Date

December 2021

Version

Version	Date	Change	TRIM Ref
1	December 2019	Adopted by Council 19 December 2019	2019/411482