

COMMUNITY FACT SHEET: FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PLAN

Introduction

The community has an important role to play in helping identify and reduce fraud and corruption in Tamworth Regional Council.

Community members interact with Council and staff in many ways, including:

- as residents and rate payers;
- as friends and family members;
- as service providers;
- as volunteers; and
- as suppliers.

There are many opportunities for the community to witness behaviour that could be fraudulent or corrupt.

What is corrupt conduct?

Corrupt conduct examples include:

- misappropriation of Council funds;
- exerting influence in order to receive a benefit for oneself or others;
- using Council information to bribe or threaten individuals or businesses;
- taking of equipment or supplies (including stationery or portable electrical equipment) from Council;
- conspiring unfairly with others to determine a tender or development application;
- receiving benefits to process development applications that do not meet statutory, regulatory or Council requirements;
- enhancing one's financial position through the use of Council information;
- unauthorised private use of a Council motor vehicle or other assets of Council;
- using Council money for a private benefit;
- accepting gifts that contravene the Code of Conduct (with failure to disclose the gift);
- falsifying timesheets;
- running a private business during working hours or with Council resource;
- falsifying travel claims and/or reimbursements;
- falsifying documents to obtain benefits that would otherwise not be provided; or
- election bribery, election funding offences and election fraud.



What do I do if I witness or suspect Fraud and Corruption?

Reports of fraud and corruption can be made:

- Through Council's website. Online reporting can be completely anonymous if you choose.
- Over the phone – Call 02 6767 5555 and ask to speak to Council's Internal Auditor.
- In person by appointment – To make an appointment, call on 02 6767 5555 and ask to speak to Council's Internal Auditor.

What happens following a report?

Any matters involving staff matters are confidential. All matters will be investigated in accordance with the information provided.

Those people who make a report and who provide their name and contact information will receive notice of an investigation being completed and closed and be given a general overview of the outcome. This will exclude confidential information

For those matters where people make a report and do not provide their name and contact information, investigations will be conducted however it will not be possible to provide any update about the outcome.