

1st FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL FRAUD PARTNERSHIP

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the Leicester City Council led fraud bid for Leicester & Leicestershire.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **(a) The Committee notes the current role of the Council regarding the fraud work with Leicester City Council.**

(b) The Committee notes the briefing paper Appendix A from Leicester City Council regarding the role they have in leading the City / County Fraud Hub.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Leicester City Council was successful in bidding for £800,000 of DCLG funding to head up a county-wide drive to tackle fraud. Members are asked to note that all [Countywide] district councils have signed up to this partnership.

- 3.2 The total national scheme is worth up to £16 million over the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 and will start paying money to successful local authorities during the third quarter of 2014/15. DCLG was particularly keen to fund innovative joint proposals.

- 3.3 Once the final documents have been signed we will begin working with Leicester City Council. They will lead on fraud through their new "Fraud Hub". The City has delayed the project whilst carrying out a procurement exercise to purchase the necessary software and recruit the new fraud team. The current progress on the fraud hub is found in Appendix A.

- 3.4 Once the service is live, expected to be end of January 2016, we will be required to produce the data for inclusion into the Fraud Hub. LCC would be looking for all of councils to provide this data on a monthly basis. The current areas the fraud hub will investigate are:

3.5

- Payroll
- Housing
- Transport passes and permits
- Council Tax
- Electoral Register
- Right to Buy data

- 3.6 Whilst the Leicester City Bid has not identified Council Tax Support as one of the key fraud area there is an expectation that once the fraud hub has been established

and capacity is freed up that CTS fraud will be looked into.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The main corporate implications relate to the impact on the Council’s finances if cases of fraud are not identified and acted upon.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

At the present time the Council has not had to recognise or has incurred any costs to participate in this project.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no legal implications to this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

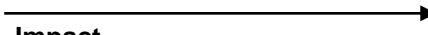
8.1 There are no particular equalities issues arising as a result of this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 **Probability**



Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D				
Very Low E		1,2		
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic



Impact

Risk No.	Description
1	MBC is overwhelmed with identified fraud cases
2	Data extraction on a monthly basis is not met

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The Council's internal auditors have been informed of the roll out of Leicester City Councils Fraud Hub

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected

Contact Officer Mark Shields
Date: 19th January 2016

Appendices : Appendix A – Leicester City Council Fraud Hub