



Counter Fraud Update Report

Corporate Priority:	All
Relevant Ward Member(s):	N/A
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	No

1 Summary

- 1.1 To provide Members with a six monthly update on counter fraud activity and the fraud log for 2021/22.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That Committee:

- 2.1 Note the latest counter fraud activity and fraud log for 2021/22.

2 Reason for Recommendations

- 2.1 To ensure the Committee has an oversight of the Council's investigation and counter fraud activity.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Council has a zero tolerance to fraud and corruption which is communicated and enforced through its policies and procedures. In order to actively promote this culture and ensure controls are robust as possible, the Head of Internal Audit and the Director for Corporate Services review fraud risks and assess against good practice on a regular

basis. Opportunities are also sought to engage with staff and maintain awareness of key policies and expectations.

3.2 This report is intended to provide an update on counter fraud activity.

4 Main Considerations

4.1 In 2021/22 Internal Audit were notified of two alleged frauds which are summarised in the table in Appendix A to this report.

4.2 During the last six months, pro-active counter fraud activity at the Council has included the following:

Prevention

a) Providing advice and sharing intelligence in relation to business support grant frauds and alerts;

Detection

b) Monitoring of the Council's 'Report Fraud' mailbox;

c) Support from the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud service in conducting post payment assurance checks on grants paid to local businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic and some pre-payment checks for later rounds of funding. This has included conducting checks via the Cabinet Office's National Fraud Initiative tools and advising on alerts and intelligence gathered from work at other shared service clients

d) Developing an NFI Strategy for adoption from 2022/23. This will ensure the Council seeks to maximise the benefit of participation in this exercise and co-ordinate completion of the key stages for the mandatory data matching;

Compliance

e) Review of the Council's Fraud Risk Register and reference to this in planning Internal Audit coverage for 2022/23.

5 Options Considered

5.1 Not applicable.

6 Consultation

6.1 Not applicable.

7 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

7.1 Internal Audit will continue to work with the Council to build upon its counter fraud work to date and to continue to review and manage fraud risks.

8 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial or other resource implications arising directly from this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

9 Legal and Governance Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Deputy Monitoring Officer 27.06.22

10 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

10.1 There are no equalities or safeguarding implications arising directly from this report.

11 Community Safety Implications

11.1 There are no community safety implications arising directly from this report.

12 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

12.1 There are no environmental or climate change implications arising directly from this report.

13 Other Implications (where significant)

13.1 There are no other implications arising directly from this report.

14 Background Papers

14.1 Not applicable.

15 Appendices

15.1 Appendix A – Fraud Log

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