



COUNTER FRAUD UPDATE

1.0 Summary:

1.1 This report provides an update on counter fraud activity at the Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members receive and note the report.

3.0 Report Detail

3.1 In order to continue to build the resilience of the Council against fraud and embed the zero tolerance culture which has been set by the Counter Fraud and Corruption policy, various counter fraud work takes place. There is a counter fraud action plan which is monitored by the Council's s151 officer and Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud and is subject to review by the Senior Leadership Team, as appropriate. The latest version of this plan is provided in Appendix A for the committee's information.

3.2 Since the last counter fraud update in July 2019, two further actions have been completed on the action plan and there are no outstanding actions.

3.3 Each November the Council participates in Fraud Awareness Week and the Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud takes this opportunity to promote the Council's counter fraud policies and raise awareness of the top fraud risks. During 2019 the Head of Internal Audit & Counter Fraud has also revised the Council's online training package on fraud awareness and staff are to be encouraged to complete this training course during the Fraud Awareness Week. Completion of the training will be monitored centrally to assess coverage.

4.0 Consultation and Feedback (including Scrutiny Committee)

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Next Steps

5.1 The counter fraud action plan will continue to be monitored by Internal Audit and

management and will be presented to the committee again in June 2020.

6.0 Financial Implications

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

7.0 Legal and Governance Implications:

7.1 Fraud is a criminal offence and therefore represents a breach of the law. The conduct of counter-fraud work of all kinds is bound by law and regulation and the Council should ensure that its activities in this area are properly discharged

8.0 Equality and Safeguarding Implications:

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

9.0 Community Safety Implications:

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

10.0 Other Implications

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

11.0 Risk & Mitigation:

11.1 The Council's Counter Fraud and Corruption policy and action plan aim to manage the risk of fraud and ensure that proportionate action is taken to respond to key risks.

Background Papers:

Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Counter Fraud Action Plan – October 2019

Report Timeline:

Equalities Check & Challenge	-
SLT Sign off	-
Previously Considered by Cabinet	-
Director Approval	6.11.19
Chief Finance Officer Sign Off	6.11.19
Deputy Monitoring Officer Sign Off	11.11.19

Exempt Reports

Date of Review to make public (Exempt Reports only)

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