

Annual Fraud Log 2019/20 and Counter Fraud Update

Corporate Priority:	N/A
Relevant Ward Member(s):	N/A
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	Appendix A of this report contains exempt information and is not for publication in accordance with Paragraph 1 & 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on counter fraud activity at the Council and a log of reports of attempted or alleged fraud against the Council during the financial year 2019/20.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 **That the Committee receive and note the report.**

3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 To provide Members with assurance that the Council is taking appropriate action to address the risk of fraud and that suspected frauds are investigated and appropriate actions taken to prosecute perpetrators, recover losses and improve financial controls

4 Background

- 4.1 In line with the Council's Counter Fraud and Corruption policy, at the end of each financial year, the Head of Internal Audit provides a log of all reports of fraudulent activity or attempts made against the Council. This provides the committee with oversight of investigation work and trends.

5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 In line with the Council's Counter Fraud and Corruption policy, at the end of each financial year, the Head of Internal Audit provides a log of all reports of fraudulent activity or attempts made against the Council. This provides the committee with oversight of investigation work and trends.
- 5.2 This report relates to corporate frauds and excludes any housing benefit frauds, which are subject to separate investigation and reporting mechanisms.
- 5.3 Any fraudulent activity or attempts against the Council of which the Head of Internal Audit has been notified are recoded in the fraud log, as attached at Appendix A.
- 5.4 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 also a counter fraud action plan which is monitored by the Council's s151 officer and Head of Internal Audit. The latest version of this plan is provided in Appendix B for the committee's information. All actions which were on the plan at November 2019 were reported as complete. All actions reported in Appendix B have been added since November 2019 – closed actions have not been included in this update.
- 5.5 It should be noted that this action plan includes only actions arising from a quarterly review of the detailed fraud risk register and monitoring of latest fraud trends/alerts – it is not intended to capture the Council's full counter fraud strategy or risk assessment.

6 Options Considered

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

- 8.1 The counter fraud action plan will continue to be monitored by Internal Audit and management and will be presented to the committee again in November 2020.

9 Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial or other resource implications arising directly from this report.
Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

10 Legal and Governance Implications

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

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

12 Community Safety Implications

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

13 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

13.1 There are no environmental and climate change implications arising from this report.

14 Other Implications (where significant)

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

15 Risk & Mitigation

15.1 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.

16 Background Papers

16.1 Not applicable.

17 Appendices

17.1 Exempt Appendix A: Fraud Log 2019/20

17.2 Appendix B: Counter Fraud Action Plan – July 2020

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