

## **Audit Committee**

**29 November 2021**

### **Protecting the Public Purse – Update Activity Report as at 30 September 2021**



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## **Report of Stephen Carter, Interim Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager**

### **Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide.

### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 This report presents an update the activity undertaken to Protect the Public Purse, to inform Members of the work that has been carried out in the first six months of the year.

### **Executive Summary**

- 2 The report provides Members with the progress that has been made by the Corporate Fraud Team up to 30 September 2021. The report provides an update on:
  - (a) The work of the Corporate Fraud Team;
  - (b) Action taken to raise awareness of the risk of fraud and corruption to assist in embedding a strong counter fraud culture throughout the organisation;
  - (c) Reported cases of potential fraud reported during the period April to September 2021;
  - (d) Proactive Counter Fraud work undertaken;
  - (e) Progress on the Council's participation in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI);
  - (f) Fraud Reporting;
  - (g) Fraud Training;
  - (h) Covid-19 Frauds.

- 3 The appendices attached to this report are summarised below. Appendix 3 (marked with an asterisk) is not for publication (Exempt information under Part 3 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 3).
- (a) Appendix 2 – Case load and values of fraud identified between April and September 2021;
  - (b) Appendix 3\* – Cases of potential internal corporate fraud reported and ongoing investigations;

### **Recommendations**

- 4 Members are asked to note the contents of the update activity under the Councils Protecting the Public Purse responsibilities, including:
- (a) The work carried out by the Corporate Fraud Team;
  - (b) The actions taken to improve awareness and the arrangements in place for managing the risk of fraud and corruption;
  - (c) Corporate Fraud Team numbers and values of fraud identified in 2021/22, as at 30 September 2021 (Appendix 2).

## **Background**

- 5 The risk of fraud and corruption is recognised as a strategic risk within the Council's Corporate Strategic Risk Register.
- 6 The latest Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy was approved by Audit Committee in June 2018. It was reviewed during 2019/20 and 2020/21 but did not require any changes. The Strategy is currently being reviewed and updated and a report will be presented to the committee in June 2022 for consideration.
- 7 The Corporate Fraud Team is responsible for:
  - Developing, implementing, and promoting the Council's Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy, raising awareness of the risk of fraud and corruption, and advising on controls that will effectively manage the risk;
  - Acknowledging our Fraud Response and being pro-active in the prevention and identification of potential fraud and irregularity, with the overall aim to protect the Council, our assets, our employees, and the Community we serve;
  - Investigating cases of suspected fraud and overseeing that any investigations are completed in accordance with the Council's Fraud Response Plan and other Counter Fraud Policies.
- 8 The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the arrangements the Council has put in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption by seeking assurance on their effectiveness.

## **Corporate Fraud Team**

- 9 The Corporate Fraud Team continues to investigate both internal and external frauds, as well as assisting with the counter fraud activity.
- 10 The work of the Corporate Fraud Team includes:
  - Investigating potential council tax reduction fraud;
  - Investigating potential single person discount fraud and other council tax fraud;
  - Investigating potential business rates fraud;
  - Investigating potential employee fraud;
  - Investigating potential fraud in schools;

- Investigating potential fraud and abuse of blue badges;
- Investigating potential direct payments fraud;
- Investigating potential insurance fraud;
- Investigating potential grant fraud;
- Investigating potential procurement fraud;
- Investigating serious data breach cases where the Information Commissioners Office will be notified;
- Coordinating and investigating reports from the National Fraud Initiative (NFI);
- Creating stronger partnership working and a multi-agency approach to tackle organised crime and fraud and corruption by having a member of the Corporate Fraud Team working alongside Durham Constabulary;
- Working with Believe Housing, Gentoo Homes and Livin Housing to investigate potential tenancy fraud;
- Working with Bernicia Homes, Gentoo Homes, Karbon Homes, and Livin Housing to investigate potential right to buy and right to acquire fraud and verification checks;
- Membership of the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN), CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre and North East Fraud Forum (NEFF) attending round table events and forums to gain best practice;
- Working with colleagues in People and Talent Management to review and support disciplinary investigations;
- Working with colleagues in People and Talent Management and Corporate Complaints Unit to review employee complaints;
- Single point of contact (SPOC) for housing benefit fraud for information sharing with the Department for Works and Pensions;
- Investigating potential Covid-19 frauds and assisting with post assurance and pre-payment checks with Covid-19 grants.

## Counter Fraud Awareness

11 A summary of the counter fraud awareness initiatives progressed during April to September 2021 are as follows:

- A continued review of the Corporate Strategic Risk into Fraud & Corruption, with progress made to develop a Fraud Risk Register embedded within each Service grouping;
- Virtual attendance at Durham Constabulary's quarterly Serious and Organised Crime Disruption Panel;
- Virtual attendance at Durham Constabulary's Gold Command Group;
- Fraud awareness with emerging Covid-19 fraud risks being communicated during 2021/22. Further awareness is continuing, with the pandemic changing the fraud landscape. Fraud awareness is an ongoing action included within the Fraud Operational Plan to be delivered on an annual basis;
- Fraud awareness is incorporated into the induction process for new employees. Employees are directed to Counter Fraud pages and Policies on the intranet;
- As part of the annual review of the Recruitment and Selection Policy, a fraud declaration is included to act as a deterrent. It has been agreed for employee data to be reviewed and matched against Durham Constabulary's Organised Crime Group (OCG) data;
- Several warnings have been received from NAFN regarding a range of frauds and scams against Councils and schools. All warnings are communicated to the relevant service areas and publicity to warn our customers;
- Warnings of scams and fraud alerts are received as part of our membership of the CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre and NEFF. Again, all warnings are communicated to the relevant service areas and publicity to warn our customers;
- The Corporate Fraud Team has signed up to receive Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System (CIFAS) weekly alerts, with these alerts also communicated to the relevant service areas and publicity to warn our customers;
- To help reduce the potential risk to schools within the County, details of the common frauds and scams, and how to avoid them,

have also been made available on the school extranet and in school newsletters;

- The Corporate Fraud System records all scams and alerts, so intelligence searches can be made at any time;
- A review of how scams and alerts are communicated continued during 2021/22, with an agreed joint approach with Community Protection Services rolled out;
- The Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing) is available on the DCC website for contractors, suppliers, and former employees, as well as publicity for current employees being included on the intranet. There has been one report during 2021/22. Further awareness of the code is being reviewed, especially with the heightened threat of insider fraud due to Covid-19;
- The Corporate Fraud Sanction Policy is publicised on the DCC website acting both as a deterrent and allowing us to pursue fraudsters. This policy sets out what actions will be taken with fraud and the sanctions available to dispose of offenders. Since the creation of the Corporate Fraud Team, we have had 25 prosecutions and sanctioned 54 cases, with potential further cases currently under investigation;
- A continued review of Durham County Council's website relating to fraud and the reporting methods has been carried out, with new pages added to the landing page [www.durham.gov.uk/fraud](http://www.durham.gov.uk/fraud). This is part of the Fraud Campaign and Fraud Communications Strategy;
- The Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy, the Fraud Response Plan, the Confidential Reporting Code, the Corporate Fraud Sanction Policy, and the Anti Money Laundering Policy are all available on both the DCC website and on the DCC intranet. All these documents are currently being reviewed;
- Training, which includes counter fraud guidance, is included in the Governor Training Booklet. We provide one course every school term, therefore three are provided annually. This is currently on hold;
- The Corporate Fraud System is maintained for all reported cases of fraud, which is then reported to Service areas and Audit Committee;

- Fraud reporting has continued during 2021/22 with 490 reports made. All the various fraud reporting channels have been utilised, showing the importance of maintaining these access channels and the need to keep reviewing new reporting methods;
  - The Fraud Communications Strategy and delivery programme has continued throughout 2021/22, with various forms of publicity and communications, especially with Covid-19 frauds and scams. Further details of this are included below;
  - A new electronic process for the Employee Code of Conduct (CCE) declarations was finalised and was rolled out from April 2021.
- 12 The Counter Fraud Operational Plan 2021/22 is monitored every month, so that progress can be effectively managed. This operational plan was agreed by Audit Committee in June 2021.
- 13 A programme for managers is included within the Corporate Training Programme and includes Fraud Awareness. Regular sessions are held which includes as many managers as possible to alert them to the risk of fraud as an organisation and in their respective service areas.
- 14 In May 2019 Durham County Council signed up to a joint counter fraud initiative with the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) local fraud investigators. The joint counter fraud initiative involved DWP local fraud teams, working together with council fraud teams, carrying out joint criminal fraud investigations of Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and Social Security benefit fraud.
- 15 Since May 2019 there have been a total of six cases jointly investigated, all of which have been closed as no fraud identified. A review of the joint working initiative with DWP Management is pending, to determine if it is worthwhile continuing. However due to the pandemic, DWP fraud teams are still seconded to other workloads and therefore this initiative and conversations have been put on hold. Progress of this initiative will continue to be reported to the Committee within the update activity report.
- 16 The fraud communication strategy and fraud campaign has progressed during 2021/22, introducing awareness of new fraud risks, a member's awareness and a new scam and fraud alerts website page and mailing list. The campaign will continue with the key messages to 'fight fraud together' and 'stamp out fraud' asking residents, stakeholders, Members, and employees to 'help stop fraud and report it'.
- 17 The Fraud Communication Strategy is a live document, with constant internal and external communications being developed and publicised,

with the plan to keep our awareness refreshed and ongoing, especially as ‘fraud doesn’t stop’.

- 18 The Council has piloted an Email Fraud Protection (EFP) product. The product detects fake invoices even from compromised email accounts, rates every invoice for authenticity or indicators of compromise, monitors compromised emails from vendors, suppliers and internal accounts and scans emails continuously including archived content and attachments.
- 19 EFP assists with vendor/supplier fraud, CEO fraud, from email spoofing and account take overs. Further to evaluating the pilot, a decision was made not to progress with the product. The evaluation gave assurance with our current controls and that the amount of resource that would be needed to invest in the product, was not value for money with the potential fraud risks that could be identified.

### **Reported Cases of Potential Fraud and Irregularity**

- 20 The Fraud Response Plan, which underpins the Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy, requires that cases of attempted, suspected, or proven corporate fraud or irregularity reported to service managers must be reported to the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager when they are identified or raised.
- 21 A register is maintained by the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager of all suspected cases of fraud reported, whether the matter is investigated by Corporate Fraud, Internal Audit, or service management. The register maintained on the Council’s Corporate Fraud System identifies all different types of fraud, both internal and external.
- 22 The maintenance of these records is essential to monitor the impact of fraud on, and within, the Council, as a measure of the effectiveness of the Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy.
- 23 Cases are also monitored to identify any potential trends and/or potential weaknesses in the control environment that may require further action or attention.
- 24 A summary of the potential cases of internal corporate fraud reported each of the last five years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
2017/18	40
2018/19	30
2019/20	37
2020/21	23
2021/22 (April – Sept)	11

- 25 Referrals during the six months to 30 September 2021 have followed a similar pattern to those of the previous year, although with these unprecedented times with the pandemic, it is still not practical to compare to previous years. It is expected that the awareness of the Corporate Fraud Team acts as a suitable deterrent and our zero-tolerance approach is being embedded within the organisation. With ongoing fraud awareness planned, including the continuation of publicising the Confidential Reporting Code, this will continue to encourage cases to be reported.
- 26 Working from home has changed the landscape and potential increased risk for internal fraud. Our internal fraud risks and the Council's internal control measures have continued to be reviewed during 2021/22 to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and take account of the increase in home working.
- 27 A summary of ongoing cases from previous years, and cases reported between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021, together with the outcomes from any subsequent investigation, are shown as Appendix 3.
- 28 As with all fraud investigations carried out, where weaknesses in control are identified, recommendations are made to minimise the risk of repeat cases. Where applicable, and where patterns emerge, this helps inform the Internal Audit Plan and potential proactive fraud work in the future.
- 29 A summary of the potential cases of external corporate fraud reported and investigated since 2015/16 when the Corporate Fraud Team was established is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Number of Cases Investigated</b>	<b>Actual Outcome Values</b>	<b>Notional Outcome Values</b>
2015/16	804	744	£1,726,802	Not Recorded
2016/17	803	364	£793,331	Not Recorded
2017/18	1,041	659	£796,691	Not Recorded
2018/19	978	481	£1,344,290	Not Recorded
2019/20	1,156	721	£3,569,089	£64,888
2020/21	1,133	691	£3,372,722	£78,449
2021/22 (April – Sept)	490	242	£895,283	£21,078
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,405</b>	<b>3,902</b>	<b>£12,498,208</b>	<b>£164,415</b>

- 30 During the period April to September 2021 all the reported figures have decreased compared to previous years, with the pandemic, staff absence and commitments in terms of training and development all having an impact on the number of cases investigated and subsequent outcomes. It is expected, the reported figures will increase for the remaining of 2021/22.

- 31 The totals show our zero tolerance, with over 3,900 investigations and over £12.4million worth of fraud uncovered or intercepted. The continual development and journey of the Corporate Fraud Team, with the fraud campaign and strong partnership working continue to contribute to these successes.
- 32 These partnerships have also allowed the team to commercialise and bring in an income. During 2020/21 the team income was circa £79,000. Between April to September 2021 the team income was circa £55,000. A review of all the existing partnerships and any potential new ones is included within our Fraud Operational Plan.
- 33 During 2019/20 a notional value was measured and introduced within the team's performance indicators. These values calculate the preventative amount, that a fraud investigation has saved, that would have continued to be paid. The methodology and calculations that are used are from both a national report by the Cabinet Office and using our own methodology with costs for DCC.
- 34 A review of our fraud measurement and fraud risk values continues. The new methodology is being piloted during 2021/22, the findings will then be reported to the Committee within the annual report in June 2022.
- 35 A summary of the Corporate Fraud Team case load and values of fraud cases identified during April to September 2021, are shown at Appendix 2.

### **Proactive Counter Fraud Work**

- 36 Across the year, several proactive counter fraud initiatives have been completed, mostly virtual, including:
- The continuation of the North East Tenancy Fraud Forum (NETFF), with the Fraud Manager as joint chair;
  - The continuation of the North East Regional Investigation Officers Group (NERIOG), with the Fraud Manager as the chair;
  - Further development of the Corporate Fraud System data warehousing software, which allows localised data matching and intelligence led investigations. New datasets have been included during 2021/22, with the internal hub now having 15 extracts. Data analytics and proactive investigations are areas that the Corporate Fraud Team are keen to develop further;
  - The partnership work with Durham Constabulary allows for data matching to be done against specific council datasets against

police OCG data. The partnership has also allowed for direct access to Police intelligence systems to assist with Corporate Fraud investigations;

- The Police partnership continues to grow from strength to strength and other Local Authorities and forces have contacted us wanting to implement our approach. The FFCL has included our partnership within the new national Strategy as best practice;
- The continuation of the Blue Badge Enforcement Group (BBEG) with one of the Corporate Fraud Investigators as chair. This group is attended by Parking Services, Adult Health Services, and the Corporate Fraud Team to tackle fraud and misuse as a joined-up authority;
- The Corporate Fraud Sanction Policy has allowed us to dispose of three sanctions and one prosecution during April to September 2021;
- Progress has continued to develop the North East Regional fraud data hub, with Durham being the lead authority. This will assist with cross boundary intelligence and data matching, allowing us to tackle fraud on a regional level with Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council;
- The Regional Hub is being developed under the Digital Economy Act and once this goes live, will be one of the first fraud pilots nationally for local authorities. Due to the pandemic the go live date has been put on hold and it is now expected to receive ministerial approval and go live during 2021/22;
- A three-year Strategic Partnership is continuing with both Believe Housing Group and Livin Housing, for the Corporate Fraud Team to deliver Tenancy Fraud work for both organisations;
- A two-year Strategic Partnership is continuing with Gentoo Homes, for the Corporate Fraud Team to deliver Tenancy Fraud work;
- A Strategic Partnership is continuing with Bernicia Homes, Gentoo Homes, Karbon Homes and Livin Housing for the Corporate Fraud Team to deliver right to buy and right to acquire verification checks and any potential money laundering fraud;
- In December 2019 the Corporate Fraud Team seconded a Financial Investigator (FI). This role has continued during 2021/22 and continues to be invaluable, assisting with criminal

investigations, as well as the recovery of monies and assets for DCC;

- This role has given the Corporate Fraud Team other lines of enquiry and powers that previously were not available and has demonstrated the need of a Financial Investigator within the fraud team on a permanent basis. Development of a resource from within the team has commenced during 2021/22.

### **National Fraud Initiative (2020 / 2021)**

- 37 The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is the Cabinet Office's data matching exercise that runs every two years. Data from various Council systems will be submitted in October 2020 and matched across systems and against data submitted by other organisations to identify potential fraud and / or error.
- 38 The main results of the NFI 2020/21 were released between January and April 2021, and produced a total of 77 separate reports, containing 71,894 individual data matches for review by the Council. The Corporate Fraud Team is the key contact and coordinator for this exercise, with an action plan to make sure DCC reviews and investigates the results to identify fraud and error and recover any overpaid monies. Results are investigated by service areas, internal audit, and corporate fraud, depending on the report types.
- 39 As at 30 September 2021, 56 reports / 9,665 matches have been closed and outcomes reported as 105 errors identified and savings of £7,257. There are reports that have been investigated and closed in bulk, but these do not show as individual matches closed and are not included within the 9,665. The outcomes show that the controls and our own data analytics and partnership work, seem to be effective, with very few matches having positive outcomes, in that we are already aware and have actioned any error or that the match is incorrect.
- 40 The final reports are being reviewed and progress of this initiative will continue to be reported to the Committee within the annual report.
- 41 In line with NFI requirements, Council Tax and Electoral Roll data is also submitted annually to help identify potential Single Person Discount (SPD) fraud or error. Council Tax data is also matched to all other NFI data sets to identify further potential SPD fraud or error. This exercise will be submitted again in December 2021.
- 42 The National Fraud Initiative is also carried out by the Council on behalf of Durham Constabulary, County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority and for the first time the North East Combined Authority.

## **Fraud Reporting**

- 43 The national CIPFA Counter Fraud and Corruption Tracker has not be collated during 2021/22 and therefore there is a gap in national fraud reporting. It is not known whether any future national report will be progressed.
- 44 As part of NERIOG, benchmarking is carried out to show a regional position, allowing Durham to benchmark against neighbouring authorities in the region. The most recent document shows Durham leading the fight against fraud in the North East Region.
- 45 Fraud transparency data has continued to be reported on the website as part of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.
- 46 The Council is continuing to support the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) Board and has assisted with the development of the national FFCL Strategy and supporting documents. DCC was mentioned in the Strategy as a best practice fraud team and were thanked for our input.
- 47 As part of the FFCL strategy, the comprehensive checklist has been reviewed, and subsequent actions will be added to our Fraud Operational Plan for 2022/23. This will assist with our local response and continually professional development.
- 48 The Corporate Fraud Team has continued to benchmark with its Local Performance Indicators as part of the Performance Management Framework of the Service.

## **Fraud Training**

- 49 A Durham Managers programme is included within the Corporate Training Programme and includes Fraud Awareness. Regular sessions are held to include as many managers as possible to alert them to the risk of fraud for both our organisation and in their respective service areas. This action is currently on hold.
- 50 It has been agreed that all members of the Corporate Fraud Team will complete the new Accredited Counter Fraud Specialist qualification, showing the continued commitment within DCC to protect the public purse. Three members of the team are already qualified. Five members of the team are already Professional in Security accredited counter fraud specialists.
- 51 The Council was involved in the Local Authority Government Counter Fraud Profession Working Group, which reviewed and developed Local Authority fraud standards and a professional qualification. The Council is currently reviewing membership options.

- 52 The Fraud Manager is the North East Regional Representative for the 'Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally' board and a member of the National Operational Group. This demonstrates Durham again leading the fight against fraud in the region and are also being recognised nationally.
- 53 The Fraud Manager has attended virtual conferences and seminars to assist with the team's continuing professional development.
- 54 A new Corporate Fraud Investigator apprentice was appointed in September 2021, to continue with our plan to 'grow our own' and build the team. They are studying the Counter Fraud Investigator apprenticeship and the accredited counter fraud qualification via CIPFA.
- 55 A Durham cohort has continued during 2021/22, with DCC championing the new Counter Fraud Investigator apprenticeship. This is one of the first of these apprenticeships nationally, again showing Durham leading the way. Three members of the Corporate Fraud Team are enrolled.
- 56 The Fraud Investigation Standard, as part of this apprenticeship, has been developed to provide a recognised and robust pathway for fraud investigators, that would allow for parity across sectors and comprehensive development of all knowledge, skills and behaviours associated with being an effective and competent investigation professional.
- 57 The Corporate Fraud Team's partnership with ITS Training (UK) Limited, a specialist fraud training provider is continuing. The Corporate Fraud Team benefits by receiving free places on training courses and saving costs in not having to travel to other venues outside Durham.

## **Covid-19 Frauds**

- 58 As reported in the annual report in June 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic has provided an opportunity for fraudsters to exploit people, businesses, and public and private organisations. Fraudsters are using sophisticated methods to callously exploit people's financial concerns, scamming them out of money. With the urgency to support people and the billions of pounds spent from government, fraudsters have and are taking advantage of weaknesses in controls.
- 59 Criminals have continued to use known fraud risks to attack local authorities via impersonation fraud, CEO fraud, mandate fraud, phishing emails, empty property fraud, false representation, and money laundering. Serious and Organised criminals are exploiting these unprecedented times, but we have also continued to see a rise in opportunist fraud.

- 60 The Corporate Fraud and Internal Audit Teams have played an important role in supporting the Council to verify we are paying out monies to genuine people and businesses who needed financial support during the Covid-19 restrictions. The teams have led on the post payment verification processes, have been involved in designing systems and processes on an advice and consultancy basis, as services were tasked with establishing new processes to process these schemes.
- 61 Fraud and Corruption has been added to our Covid-19 Risks and is being monitored on a regular basis. Intelligence alerts from NAFN, CIFAS and other national and regional forums are continually reviewed, with prompt action and awareness to internal service areas and the public.
- 62 Although most of the Grants Fund schemes have now closed, post assurance work and ongoing fraud investigations continues. There are currently 20 ongoing fraud investigations and the expectation that more fraud investigations will be raised following the completion of the post payment assurance work.
- 63 Since the pandemic the Corporate Fraud Team have investigated 113 Covid-19 Grant Fraud cases, preventing £902,000 and identified fraud of £265,000. The team continues to work in partnership with Durham Constabulary and had a successful custodial prosecution earlier this year, as well as working in partnership with NAFN and reporting numerous national organised frauds to the National Investigation Service.
- 64 The risks associated with the closure of Council buildings, offices, and an increase in working from home is being reviewed as part of the Covid-19 Fraud Risks and any actions implemented to reduce any identified threats. Progress will continue to be reported to the Committee.

### **Background papers**

- None.

### **Other useful documents**

- None.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Governance procedures in place, (particularly the Counter Fraud & Corruption Strategy, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Procedure Rules, Codes of Conduct, and the Confidential Reporting Code), supported by a robust audit programme of counter fraud awareness measures and assurance reviews will assist the Council in complying with anti-corruption law, in particular the Bribery Act, and serves to reduce the risk of reputation damage and financial loss by litigation.

### **Finance**

Loss to the Council arising from fraudulent actions. The cost of the Corporate Fraud Team for 2021/22 is £277,848 and in 2020/21 have recovered or intercepted over £3.3million of potential fraud. Between April to September 2021 the team has recovered or intercepted over £895,000. Since the set-up of the Team in June 2015 the team have recovered or intercepted over £12.4million. Some of the work of the team is also not measured and therefore does not have a value that can be calculated.

### **Consultation**

There has been no need for consultation to be undertaken as a result of this report.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

There are no equality and diversity / public sector equality duty implications as a result of this report.

### **Climate Change**

There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

### **Human Rights**

There are no human rights implications as a result of this report.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Fraud is a criminal offence as defined by the Fraud Act 2006.

### **Staffing**

Potential for disciplinary action to be taken against known employees where fraud has been proven.

### **Accommodation**

There are no accommodation implications as a result of this report.

### **Risk**

The risk of fraud and corruption is recognised as a corporate strategic risk. An effective counter fraud strategy is a key control in helping to mitigate the risk.

### **Procurement**

There are no procurement implications as a result of this report.

**Corporate Fraud Team Results  
2021 - 2022**

**Appendix 2**

Fraud Type	Referrals Total	Referrals Accepted	Referrals Rejected	Investigations Closed	OUTCOMES				
					Frauds	Prosecutions	Sanctions	Value	Notional Value
					No.	No.	No.	(£)	(£)
Adult Care Financial Assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Badge	9	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax (other)	30	12	18	3	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Support	47	26	21	13	1	0	3	14,631	1,433
Covid-19	10	10	0	18	3	1	0	205,000	0
Data Breach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Payments	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employee	12	12	0	16	9	0	0	0	0
Funding/Grant	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	10,500	0
Housing Benefit	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance	13	11	2	6	2	0	0	26,193	0
Irregularity	7	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
NNDR	10	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Procurement	2	2	0	4	3	0	0	89,821	0
Right to Buy	91	91	0	83	23	0	0	410,762	0
Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Person Discount	57	45	12	41	27	0	0	14,986	19,645
Tenancy	70	65	5	51	10	0	0	123,390	0
External	126	0	126	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>895,283</b>	<b>21,078</b>

Notes:

Employee/Irregularity cases don't always have values – we are only recording financial monetary values at present i.e. theft.

Employee/Irregularity cases also includes non-Corporate Fraud Team cases.

External referrals are cases that are not for the Corporate Fraud Team and referred onto the Police, DWP, HMRC etc.

Notional value is an estimated measure for the preventative amount saved.