

## AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

25 JULY 2019

### REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

#### COUNTER FRAUD UPDATE

##### EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

##### PURPOSE

To provide Members with an update of Counter Fraud work completed to date during the 2019/20 financial year.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1 That the Committee considers this report and raises any issue it deems appropriate.
- 2 Endorses the Fraud & Corruption Risk Register Summary. (Appendix 1)

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with good practice, a Fraud Risk Register is maintained and reviewed on a quarterly basis. The latest Fraud Risk Register Summary is attached as **Appendix 1**.

A new data matching exercise through the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is currently being completed. Data has been submitted for matching and the results will be available for investigation in February 2017.

The Authority has a dedicated Corporate Anti-Fraud Investigations Officer who has been in post since September 2015. This is to ensure that the Authority is taking a more proactive approach to fraud rather than reactive as previously adopted. As well as continuing with the work on the NFI matches previously identified, the Investigations Officer also completes investigations into potential fraud in other areas including NNDR, Council Tax Reduction, Single Persons Discount, illegal sub-letting and non-residence of council housing.

The type and number of investigations completed is detailed below.

<b>Type of fraud case</b>	<b>Number of cases investigated</b>	<b>Number of cases proven</b>	<b>Value</b>
Council tax reduction	3	-	-
Housing benefit	1	-	-
Housing sublet	1	-	-

In addition to the above, we have proactively checked 16 applications at application stage.

The Fraud Action Plan for 2019/20 is attached at **Appendix 2** and shows the work due to be completed and the work completed to date.

### **RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

There is a risk that the Authority will not have sound governance processes in place.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

None

### **REPORT AUTHOR**

Kerry Beavis ext 253

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

### **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1**                      **Fraud Risk Register Summary**  
**Appendix 2**                      **Fraud Response Plan 2019/20**