

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

24 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

COUNTER FRAUD UPDATE

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

PURPOSE

To provide Members with an update of counter fraud work completed to Quarter 2 of the 2019/20 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- Notes this report and endorses the latest fraud action plan at **Appendix 1** and fraud risk register at **Appendix 2**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with good practice, a fraud response plan and fraud risk register is maintained and reviewed on a quarterly basis. The latest fraud action plan is detailed at Appendix 1 and fraud risk register at Appendix 2.

New matches continue to be received through the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). The Authority has a dedicated Corporate Anti-Fraud Investigations Officer who undertakes the work associated with the matches as well as completing 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 to quarter 2 are detailed below.

Type of fraud case	Number of cases investigated	Number of cases proven	Value
Council tax reduction	10	2	£5,344.05
Housing benefit	3	1	£4,376.54
Housing sublet	2	0	0
Housing – non residence	1	0	0
NFI Housing Waiting List (removal) *NFI attach £3,240 as an indicative saving from the removal)	NFI Dataset	5*	£16,200*
NFI SPD check	NFI Dataset	2	£547.18
Total		10	£26,467.77

In addition to the above, the service has also proactively checked 42 applications (20 Right to Buy and 22 Housing) at application stage.

RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

Without sufficient counter fraud arrangements in place, the risk of fraud / corruption is increased. This can lead to a loss of Council assets / resources and associated reputational damage.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None.

REPORT AUTHOR

Rebecca Neill, Head of Audit and Governance & Monitoring Officer
rebecca-neill@tamworth.gov.uk
Ext: 234

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Fraud Action Plan 2019/20
Appendix 2	Fraud Risk Register