

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 2020/21 Counter Fraud Strategic Plan

Committee name	Audit Committee
Officer reporting	Muir Laurie, Deputy Director of Exchequer Services and Business Assurance
Papers with report	2020/21 Counter Fraud Strategic Plan
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The attached report presents the Audit Committee with the 2020/21 Counter Fraud Strategic Plan which sets out the planned approach and activity type for the current financial year and seeks to:

- Define the strategic approach that the Business Assurance Counter Fraud Team (BACFT) will take in effectively managing the various risks of fraud faced by the Council by full implementation of a risk based Counter Fraud Strategy;
- Set out the updated organisational fraud risk profile (Fraud Universe) within a Covid-19 global pandemic environment;
- Set out the BACFT's Operational Work Plan for 2020-21, commencing 1st September 2020, designed to deliver on the counter fraud strategic aims;
- Demonstrate the Council's commitment to a zero tolerance approach to fraud; and
- Set out BACFT's resource structure for 2020-21 following a restructuring of the team.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Audit Committee:

- 1. Approves the 2020/21 Counter Fraud Strategic Plan including the operational work plan.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The BACFT supports the Council in meeting its statutory responsibility under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption. The work of the team underpins the Council's commitment to a zero tolerance approach to fraud, bribery, corruption and other irregularities, including any money laundering activity.

The Council's Fraud Universe forms a large part of the counter fraud strategic approach. The overarching aim of the strategy is to embed a risk based approach to counter fraud activity and ensure that counter fraud is seen as a key part of the Council's risk management processes.

The approach is to achieve this by working towards four key objectives:

- Risk Based Strategic Overview;
- Partnership & Engagement;
- Prevent, Detect, Pursue & Deter; and
- Innovation & Modernisation.

Implications on related Council policies

None

How this report benefits our governance arrangements and residents

The Counter Fraud Strategic Plan reinforces the Council's governance arrangements in relation to the prevention of financial loss, fraud and corruption, and gives confidence to residents over the administration of public funds.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Business Assurance service holds various background research documents in relation to the Counter Fraud Strategic Plan.