

COUNTER FRAUD OVERVIEW REPORT 2022/23

Committee name	Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Alex Brown – Head of Counter Fraud
Papers with report	Counter Fraud Overview Report 2022/23
Ward	n/a

HEADLINES

This agenda item provides the Finance and Corporate Service Select Committee with an overview of the work of the Counter Fraud Team, it's strategic approach and operational arrangements. The report contains summary information on all Counter Fraud activity covered in relation to 2022/23 Quarter 3 and the financial year to date.

It provides an opportunity for the Head of Counter Fraud to highlight to the Select Committee any significant Counter Fraud issues that have arisen which they need to be aware of. Importantly, the report enables the Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee to undertake its statutory overview and scrutiny role in relation to the service.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee:

- 1. Receives an overview of the work and operation of the Counter Fraud Service;**
- 2. Notes and comments on the Counter Fraud Overview report 2022/23; and**
- 3. Asks any questions of the Head of Counter Fraud.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Counter Fraud Team 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.

Democratic Services advise that Councillors' roles and approach to audit and scrutiny are distinct. As Members will be aware, the Counter Fraud Team reports quarterly to the Audit Committee who review and monitor anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies. Members on the Audit Committee exercise an independent assurance role ensuring that the governance and risk environment within the Council is effective and that financial management is fit for purpose, e.g. monitoring our exposure to the risk of fraud. Select Committees, on the other hand, maintain the statutory oversight required of all services and policies within their remit. Members of Select Committees can undertake in-depth reviews, call internal and external witnesses recommending improvements to Cabinet. Therefore, because both functions can relate to similar areas, there may be matters of common interest where it makes sense to collaborate and/or keep each other informed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Counter Fraud Annual Operational Plan 2022/23

Counter Fraud Strategy 2022-2025

[Audit committees & scrutiny committees: working together – Centre for Governance & Scrutiny 2021](#)