



Report Reference Number: A/21/19

To: Audit & Governance Committee
Date: 26 January 2022
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Veritau Group
Lead Officer: Karen Iveson; Chief Finance Officer (s151)

Title: Counter Fraud Framework Update

Summary:

Veritau review the Council's counter fraud framework on an annual basis to ensure that it remains relevant and is up to date with current legislation and best practice. Following the latest review, it is recommended that the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy is updated to include specific anti-bribery provisions. This report also provides an update to the committee on progress against the actions set out in the counter fraud strategy and presents an updated counter fraud risk assessment which reflects the current fraud risks facing the council.

Recommendation:

The committee recommend that the Executive approve the updated Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy. In addition the committee is asked to comment on and note the updated fraud risk assessment, and counter fraud strategy action plan.

Reasons for recommendation

To help ensure the council maintains robust counter fraud arrangements.

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Veritau deliver a counter fraud service to the Council. The counter fraud team undertake proactive work to prevent and detect fraud such as raising awareness and providing training to members of staff. The team responds to concerns of fraud raised internally, by the public, from outside agencies, and through data matching exercises.
- 1.2 The team is responsible for making sure the Council's overall framework to counter fraud remains robust. This includes ensuring that

there is a strategy setting out how counter fraud arrangements are developed, and policies that clearly set out how the Council responds to fraud.

2 The report

- 2.1 The counter fraud framework is reviewed annually. The outcomes from the latest review are set out in appendix 1.

3 Legal/Financial Controls and other Policy matters

3.1 Legal issues

- 3.1.1 There are no legal issues relating to this report.

3.2 Financial Issues

- 3.2.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 This report and its associated appendix updates the committee on issues relevant to the maintenance and development of counter fraud arrangements at the Council. It provides an updated assessment of fraud risks, and an update to the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy which the Committee is asked to recommend for approval.

5 Background Documents/Contacts

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: Counter Fraud Framework Report – January 2022