

SUBJECT: SIX MONTHLY FRAUD AND ERROR REPORT

DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE & TOWN CLERK

REPORT AUTHOR: AMANDA STANISLAWSKI, AUDIT MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs Committee of performance against the 2022/23 Counter Fraud Work Plan and the outcomes of pro-active fraud work and investigations carried out to date.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Audit Committee receive a six monthly Fraud and Error update report (Counter Fraud Report). This is linked to its terms of reference covering monitoring of the Counter Fraud Strategy and contributes to the overall governance arrangements of the authority and the annual governance statement.
- 2.2 The report summarises the number of cases so far for 2022/23 comparing them with the previous year.
- 2.3 Progress made against completing the actions within the Counter Fraud Action Plan is detailed within the report. There have been some delays with the Single persons discount review mainly due to prioritising the Energy Rebate scheme and the Money Laundering risk assessment due to resource priorities whilst recruiting. Progress is being made with the Small Business Rate Relief checks continuing.
- 2.4 Whistleblowing referrals are close to those received for the whole of 2021/22. Allegations are similar being mainly in respect of partners being resident or the claimant was working. Resident parking has been a new theme this year with two referrals made. Action has been taken in thirteen whistleblowing cases, two have been referred to the DWP and eleven have been cleared with no issues.

3. Organisational Impacts

- 3.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no direct financial implications

- 3.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no direct legal implications

- 3.3 Equality, Diversity & Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all

individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

Due to the nature of the report, no specific Equality Impact Analysis is required.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Audit Committee consider and comment on the contents of the report and appendix.

Key Decision No

Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply? No

Call in and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? One

List of Background Papers: None

Lead Officer: Amanda Stanislowski, Audit Manager
Telephone (01522) 873321