

**Report of: Interim Director of Finance and Property (S151 Officer)**

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Audit Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019	All

<b>Delete as appropriate</b>	Non-exempt	
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Part of the report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) Paragraphs 1, 2, 7 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely: Information relating to an individual. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

**The appendix to this report is exempt and not for publication**

**SUBJECT: Annual Fraud Report - 2018/19**

**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1. This report is intended to support Committee in obtaining assurance that the Council has a sound framework of governance, risk management and internal control. It does this by providing an update surrounding the Council’s counter fraud activity.
- 1.2. An update on corporate investigations and housing investigations has been provided. The report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. In the interest of timely reporting to Committee, information in section 2 relating to corporate investigations has been extended to cover Q1 2019/20.

**2. Recommendation**

- 1.3. To note the contents of the report.

### **3. Background**

- 1.4. The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 (published by the Department for Communities and Local Government - now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) requires local authorities to publish details of their counter fraud activity.
- 1.5. The report summarises the work that has been taken by Internal Audit (Investigations) and Housing Investigations.

### **4. Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial implications**

The programme of work has been met from within the existing Internal Audit budget. The financial implications of individual mitigating actions are met by local budgets.

#### **4.2 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice and support will be provided, where necessary, in relation to individual investigations.

#### **4.3 Environmental implications**

There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **4.4 Resident Impact Assessment**

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed because the decision currently being sought does not have direct impacts on residents.

### **5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendation**

- 5.1 To note the detail of the counter-fraud activity carried out by Internal Audit (Investigations) and Housing Investigations.

### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1** – Annual Fraud Report – 2018/19 (Exempt – not for publication)

### **Final report clearance:**

**Signed by:**

*Annabel Scholes*

**Date:21/8/19**

Annabel Scholes – Interim Director of Finance  
and Property (S151 Officer)

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**REPORT ENDS**