

Finance

7 Newington Barrow Way

London N7 7EP

Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of: Audit Committee

Date: 13th September 2022

Ward(s): All

Part of the report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Paragraphs 1, 2, 7 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972,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THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: Annual Fraud Report – 2021-22

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. This report is intended to support Audit 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 for the 2021-22 year.
- 1.2. As in previous years, update on the work undertaken by Internal Audit (Investigations) and Housing Investigations. Parking Investigations have also provided input on their counter fraud activity for the previous year. The report covers the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. In the interest of timely reporting to Committee, information relating to Internal Audit (Investigations) has been extended to cover the period up to 31st July 2022.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. The report summaries the work that has been taken by Internal Audit (Investigations), Housing Investigation and the Parking Investigation teams.

4. Implications

4.1. **Financial Implications**

- 4.1.1. The programme of work has been met from within the existing Internal Audit (Investigations) budget. The financial implications of individual investigations are met by local budgets.

4.2. **Legal Implications**

- 4.2.1. 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 and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

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

4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 4.4.1. 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.
- 4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because the decision currently being sought does not have direct impact on residents.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

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

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Annual Fraud Report – 2021-22 (Exempt – not for publication)

Final report clearance:

Signed by: Dave Hodgkinson

Corporate Director of Resources

Date: 19th August 2022

Report Author: Nasreen Khan, Head of Internal Audit, Investigations and Risk Management
Tel: 020 7974 2211
Email: Nasreen.Khan@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Paul Clarke, Director of Finance
Tel: 020 7527 5636
Email: Paul.Clarke@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Rob Willis, Chief Corporate and Commercial Litigation Lawyer
Tel: 020 7527 3302
Email: Robert.Willis@islington.gov.uk

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