

Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director Finance & Public Protection

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	23 November 2015
Subject:	Counter Fraud Progress Report to 31 October 2015

Summary:

This report provides an update on our fraud investigation activities and information on progress made against our counter Fraud Work Plan 2015/16.

Recommendation(s):

To note the outcomes of our counter fraud work and identify any actions it requires.

Background

This report provides an update on the progress made against the Counter Fraud Work Plan 2015/16, including our investigation activities. Details can be found in Appendix A, including:

- Key messages
- Proactive work
- Investigations
- Progress against plan
- Other matters of interest
- Counter Fraud Work Plan 2014/15

Conclusion

We have made good progress against the work plan for 2015/16. We are currently involved in ongoing work in a number of key fraud pro-active areas and have carried out extensive work on fraud awareness with various stakeholders.

We have received six fraud referrals since April 2015 – we currently have four live cases and two which are now concluded. More information can be found on pages 5 to 7. We continue to target areas of high fraud risk – this is demonstrated by our ongoing work to raise awareness of social care fraud. Furthermore, we are currently involved in delivering a pro-active exercise to raise awareness and identify potential cases of procurement fraud. The CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre

recently issued guidance 'Managing the risk of procurement fraud' and this reiterated the view that this is the large single area of financial loss to fraud (estimated at annual cost of £876m).

This progress report is designed to provide the Committee with information which enables it to:

- confirm the Council's Counter Fraud arrangements are targeted and effective
- assess whether appropriate progress has been made against the approved work plan, and
- ensure lessons have been learnt, that there is an understanding of the fraud risks facing the Council and that actions are being taken to reduce the risk

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Counter Fraud Progress Report

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Lucy Pledge, who can be contacted on 01522-553692 or lucy.pledge@lincolnshire.gov.uk.