

Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director Resources and Community Safety

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	22 April 2013
Subject:	Counter Fraud and Investigations Work Plan 2013/14

Summary:

The Council's counter fraud arrangements demonstrate its continued commitment to strong governance and best use of resources. Our response to the National Fraud Authority's expectations to tackling fraud and corruption is reflected in the 2013/14 Counter Fraud Work Plan. It is important we maintain our counter fraud response and resilience as the changes to Council service delivery evolve.

Recommendation(s):

To review and approve the Counter Fraud Work Plan for 2013/14.

Background

- 1 In response to recommendations from both the National Fraud Authority and Audit Commission we are continuing to make better use of our IT systems using our enhanced data analytics capability. Throughout the year this will complement and inform both our counter fraud pro-active work and the due diligence audit of the Council's key financial systems.
- 2 An area carried forward from the 2012/13 Work Plan is some counter fraud and whistleblowing awareness activity, specifically related to a poster and leaflet campaign. This will now form part of a comprehensive programme of fraud awareness activity throughout 2013/14. This will include more engagement with managers, members and staff.
- 3 Following our data analytics development work we propose to increase our data analysis and fraud testing, in areas such as:
 - payroll
 - expenses, including credit cards and member allowances
 - payments (creditors) and procurement (including procurement card)

- 4 We have dedicated 25% of the work plan to fraud and error detection - in addition to the continuous testing noted above, our pro-active work will cover the 2012/13 National Fraud Initiative and areas of emerging fraud risk highlighted nationally and locally.
- 5 Action plans resulting from our proactive and investigation work will focus on recovery action (where loss through fraud & error is identified) and recommendations to improve systems, process or policy to prevent reoccurrence.
- 6 The conflict between our planned proactive work and the investigation demand will remain – we do our best to balance this within our Work Plan and manage it throughout the year. 46% of our counter fraud resources is allocated to investigation activity.

Conclusion

The Council's Counter Fraud Work Plan for 2013/14 provides a robust response to Central Government's expectations on tackling fraud and corruption. This demonstrates the Council's continued commitment to ensuring good governance during a period of significant change to service delivery.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft Work Plan 2013/14

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 Stephanie Kent, who can be contacted on 01522 553682 or stephanie.kent@lincolnshire.gov.uk.