

## Regulatory and Other Committee

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

Report to:	<b>Audit Committee</b>
Date:	<b>21 November 2016</b>
Subject:	<b>Counter Fraud Progress Report to 31 October 2016</b>

#### Summary:

This report provides an update on our fraud investigation activities and information on progress made against our counter Fraud Work Plan 2016/17.

#### Recommendation(s):

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

### Background

1. This report provides an update on the progress made against the Counter Fraud Work Plan 2016/17, including our investigation activities. Details can be found in Appendix A, including:

- Key messages
- Proactive work
- Investigations
- Progress against plan
- Other matters of interest

### Conclusion

2. We are making good progress against the work plan for 2016/17. Work is ongoing against most areas and we have successfully provided the necessary datasets to the Cabinet Office for the National Fraud Initiative 2016/17 exercise. We are currently delivering pro-active work in a number of areas and continue to promote fraud awareness with various stakeholders.
3. We have received 13 fraud referrals since April 2016 – this shows a significant increase on the levels reported at this stage in recent years. We currently have 10 live cases and have concluded enquiries in 3 referrals made this year. The increased investigation caseload is likely to impact on resources available to

carry out pro-active work. More information on investigation activity can be found on pages 8 to 9.

4. Our work continues to focus on areas of high fraud risk – this is demonstrated by our drive to raise awareness and detect potential procurement fraud. We are also currently refreshing the Council's fraud risk assessment to ensure that we continue to aim our resources against the areas most at risk to fraud.
5. 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 are learnt from investigations made, 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](mailto:lucy.pledge@lincolnshire.gov.uk).