

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

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	31 March 2014
Subject:	Counter Fraud and Investigations Work Plan 2014/15

Summary:

The Council's counter fraud arrangements demonstrate its continued commitment to strong governance and best use of resources. Our response to Central Government's expectations for tackling fraud and corruption is reflected in the draft 2014/15 Counter Fraud Plan. It is important we maintain our counter fraud response and resilience as the changes to Council service delivery continue to evolve.

Recommendation(s):

To review and approve the Counter Fraud Work Plan for 2014/15.

Background

- 1 In response to central government's expectations for tackling fraud and corruption, we aim to continue to focus on our prevention, detection and investigation work.
- 2 Our whistleblowing and counter fraud awareness activity will continue throughout 2014/15 and we plan for more engagement with managers, members and staff.
- 3 We will continue to use our data analytics expertise to enhance our analysis and fraud & error testing across key financial systems, as well as carrying out discrete pieces of work in areas carrying a higher fraud risk.
- 4 Our pro-active work will also cover the preparatory work for the next National Fraud Initiative and we will review the Council's exposure to any areas of emerging fraud risk that may be highlighted nationally.
- 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. This year we have allocated approximately 54% of our counter fraud resource to investigation activity.

Conclusion

The Council's Counter Fraud Work Plan for 2014/15 provides a robust response to Central Government's expectations for 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 Counter Fraud Work Plan 2014/15

Background Papers

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

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