



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	<b>Audit Committee</b>
Date:	<b>11 July 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Counter Fraud Annual Report 2021/2022</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides information on the overall effectiveness of the Authority's arrangements to counter fraud and corruption and reviews the delivery of the 2021/22 counter fraud work plan.

**Recommendation(s):**

To assess the overall effectiveness of the Council's arrangements to counter fraud and corruption and the progress made to implement policy.

## **Background**

The Counter Fraud Annual Report provides an overview of the investigation and proactive counter fraud work completed in 2021/22.

This summary provides information to enable the Committee to review performance and the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements. The progress reports submitted throughout the year and this annual report are the key sources of assurance for the Committee on the adequacy of Council's counter fraud activities.

The report supports the Committee in discharging its duties around:

- To review the assessment of fraud risks and the potential harm to the council from the risk of fraud
- To monitor the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources.

Details included within Appendix A includes information on:

- Fraud referrals received and investigations conducted
- Work delivered by the Lincolnshire Counter Fraud Partnership
- Investigation outcomes and recovery of fraud losses
- Proactive work delivered with a view to detecting and preventing fraud
- Fraud awareness work

## **Conclusion**

We can provide assurance that arrangements in place to counter fraud continue to remain effective. The number of referrals received in 2021/22 decreased – although a significant number of cases had been carried forward from the previous year.

The level of recoveries was lower in 2021/22 although we were involved directly in preventing frauds taking place and have several live cases awaiting action from Police/CPS.

We were able to deliver 90% of the work tasks included within the annual Counter Fraud Plan.

The Lincolnshire Counter Fraud Partnership has continued its successful collaboration with its partner authorities. The key focus during 2021/22 was the review of Single Person Discount (SPD) bulk review, which is estimated to generate Council Tax revenue of £1.3m net - with a net gain for LCC of £930k. The review also saw over 3200 discounts removed. This review has a positive impact as it increases Council Tax revenue collection that benefits both district councils and Lincolnshire County Council.

## **Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

## **Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Counter Fraud Annual Report 2021/22

## **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).