

Appendix 2



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Counter Fraud Fund

Progress Report

Supporting local authorities to boost their capability and capacity in tackling non-benefit fraud

This form should be submitted to counterfraud@communities.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 5pm on Monday 23 March**. NB this is a new email address. If you fail to meet this deadline DCLG cannot guarantee the 2nd tranche payment will be released. Any queries should also be submitted to this address.

Project lead contact information

Principal local authority name/name of bidding organisation:	South Northants Council
Name of Contact(s):	Belinda Green
Telephone number(s) of the contact(s):	01327 322182
Email address of the contact(s):	belinda.green@southnorthants.gov.uk

Project Title

Collaborative working - corporate fraud

Please complete following

Questions	Yes	No (please provide a brief explanation)
Are all procurement of goods and services are on track and to budget as set out by the bid?	Yes	
Is project spend as set out in the bid on track?	No	Spending is slightly less than anticipated for Counter Fraud Officers for 14/15 which is due in part to the new structure only being introduced from 1 st Feb 15. Spending in 15/16 will reflect this and will slightly higher.
If applicable, is the make-up of partners the same as set out in the bid?	Yes	

--	--	--

Progress against spend

Description of expenditure (as per bid)	2014/15 Funding allocated (£)	2014/15 Funding spent (£)
Counter fraud officers	£17,400	£9,040
It software and system development	£4,125	£4,900
Training and development	£2,000	£2250
Subscriptions	£2,000	£2,000

Progress against savings

Please confirm, that the estimated savings for 2015/16 are on track as set out in the original application YES

Please provide detail in the table below if available. **Figures for 15/16 not yet available but are being monitored and will be reported.**

Description of financial saving	Projected financial saving (£)				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Total forecast					
Total Actual					

Please provide a short text update on the project, highlighting any changes to the original bid (Max 300 words). If helpful, you can provide supplementary material in your return.

The aims of the project are for South Northants Council (SNC) and Cherwell District Council (CDC) to work collaboratively in the detection and prevention of fraud and therefore building on the shared service experience across both Councils.

A business case was prepared in October 2014 proposing a joint fraud investigation team for CDC and SNC with effect from 1st February 2015 also working collaboratively with colleagues at Strafrod on Avon Council.

The business case was subsequently agreed by Joint Arrangements Steering Group and Joint Management Team and reports then agreed by elected members including proposals for a new structure to allow a recruitment exercise to begin in January 2015.

The team consists of two posts. The Senior Corporate Investigations Officer has been in post since 1st February 2015 and the Corporate Investigations Officer is due to start on 23rd March 2015. To allow training and development to take place a temporary resource has also been sourced from 3rd February 2015 offering resilience as the new team and officers

are 'bedding in'

A business plan for the new team has been drafted which outlines the objectives for the team for the next 12 months. This plan will be received by the Audit Committees at both councils over the next two weeks. I attach a copy of the plan for your information.

Targets have been agreed for the team which will be monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to senior managers and elected members. As outlined in the business plan progress has also been made on a review of existing policies to support investigation work, a new data sharing IT system is under review and, if appropriate, a business case will be drafted and work is underway to enhance partnership working.

end