

This report is public	
Counter Fraud Annual Report 2024/25	
Committee	Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee
Date of Committee	28 May 2025
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, Councillor Lesley McLean.
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	16 May 2025
Report of	Assistant Director of Finance, (Section 151 Officer), Michael Furness

## Purpose of report

This report presents the counter fraud annual report for 2025/26.

### 1. Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note the annual report.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The council's counter fraud service has been delivered by Veritau since 1 May 2024. The annual report provides detail of all areas of work undertaken in the 2024/25 year, including fraud management, fraud awareness training, multi-agency work, referral and investigation outcomes.
- 2.2 The annual report, contained in Appendix 1, should be noted by this committee as part of its responsibility for monitoring the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources, and reviewing the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption.

## Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	The are no financial implications arising directly from this report Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 15 May 2025
Legal	This forms part of the annual work programme and reporting. There are no legal implications.

	Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director of Law, Governance and Monitoring Officer, 14/05/2025			
<b>Risk Management</b>	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.			
<b>Impact Assessments</b>	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equality Impact</b>				N/A
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
<b>Climate &amp; Environmental Impact</b>		X		
<b>ICT &amp; Digital Impact</b>		X		
<b>Data Impact</b>		X		
<b>Procurement &amp; subsidy</b>		X		
<b>Council Priorities</b>	This report supports the priorities set out in the 2024/25 business plan. The counter fraud team seeks to protect council income and assets so they can help fund the objectives of the business plan. The team also supports the council's specific goal to reduce crime which forms part of its overall goal to promote healthy, resilient, and engaged communities.			
<b>Human Resources</b>	N/A			
<b>Property</b>	N/A			
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement</b>	No consultation has been required in the preparation of this report.			

## Supporting Information

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Fraud is a significant risk to the public sector, and the estimated annual losses in the United Kingdom are as high as £81 billion. Veritau delivers the Council's counter fraud service, which helps mitigate fraud risk by investigating allegations of fraud and taking appropriate action where necessary. The service also supports the Council through preventative measures such as staff training and awareness campaigns.

### 4. Details

- 4.1 The Counter Fraud Annual Report, contained in appendix 1, provides the summary of work undertaken by the Veritau Counter Fraud Team in 2024/25.

### 5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The nature of this report is such that alternative options are not appropriate.

### 6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee is recommended to note the Counter Fraud Annual Report. This is so that it can fulfil its responsibility for monitoring the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources, and reviewing the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption. This responsibility is defined in the committee's terms of reference.

## Decision Information

Key Decision	N/A
Subject to Call in	N/A
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

## Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Counter Fraud Annual Report 2024/25

<b>Background Papers</b>	None
<b>Reference Papers</b>	None
<b>Report Author</b>	Sarah Butler, Corporate Fraud Manager (Veritau)
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<b>Corporate Director Approval (unless Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)</b>	Report of Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) 15 May 2025