

This report is public	
Counter Fraud Progress Report	
Committee	Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee
Date of Committee	16 July 2025
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property & Regeneration Councillor Lesley McLean
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	4 July 2025
Report of	Assistant Director Finance (S151 Officer), Michael Furness

## Purpose of report

This report presents an update on counter fraud work undertaken so far in 2025/26.

## 1. Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the counter fraud progress report.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The council's counter fraud service is delivered by Veritau. The counter fraud progress 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.

## Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	There are no financial implications associated with this report. Michael Furness Assistant Director Finance, 4 July 2025
Legal	There are no legal implications arising directly as a result of this report. The Appendix refers to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 and the duties which the Council will have from September 2025 in order to comply with this new legislation. The report notes that the Council is actively pursuing measures to investigate and counter fraud and lists the number of incidents which have been reported. Denzil – John Turbervill Head of Legal Services, 2 July 2025

<b>Risk Management</b>	<p>There are no risk implications arising directly from this report. However, agreeing the recommendations of this report mitigates the risk of not being compliant with the Committee and Council's constitutional obligation.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 3 July 2025</p>			
<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>	<p>This report supports the priorities set out in the 2025/26 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.</p>			
<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 progress report in appendix 1 details counter fraud work undertaken between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2025.

### 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 progress report. This is so that it can fulfil its responsibility for monitoring the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources. 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 Progress Report
Background Papers	None

<b>Reference Papers</b>	None
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<b>Corporate Director Approval (unless Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)</b>	Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) 2 July 2025