

| This report is public                  |  |
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| Counter Fraud Progress Report          |  |
| Committee                              | Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee   |
| Date of Committee                      | 19 November 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    | 10 November 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 resolves 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      | This is an information report on the progress of counter fraud activity between April and October 2025 and does not have any financial implications. The work carried out by Veritau is within budget.<br>Kelly Wheeler, Finance Business Partner, 4 November 2025  |
| Legal        | There are no legal implications arising directly as a result of this report. The Appendix notes that active training is being provided and refers to our requirements under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 to publish annual data in relation to counter fraud work. This report helps us to comply with these requirements.<br>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. |

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|--|--|---------|----------|------------|
|  | Denzil – John Turbervill Head of Legal Services, 10 November 2025  |         |          |            |
| <b>Risk Management</b>   | There are no risk implications rising directly from this report.<br>Celia Prado-Teeling Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader 7 November 2025   |         |          |            |
| <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 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. |         |          |            |
| <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 28 October 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   |
| Reference Papers              | None   |
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| <b>Corporate Director<br/>Approval (unless<br/>Corporate Director or<br/>Statutory Officer report)</b> | Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)<br>10 November 2025 |
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