

This report is public	
Counter Fraud Progress Report	
Committee	Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee
Date of Committee	18 March 2026
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	6 March 2026
Report of	Assistant Director of Finance, (Section 151 Officer)

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 2025 and February 2026 and does not have any financial implications. The work carried out by Veritau is within budget. Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 27 February 2026
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. 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.

	Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director of Law, Governance and Monitoring Officer, 5 March 2026			
Risk Management	There are no risk implications rising directly from this report. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 5 March 2026			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact				N/A
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Climate & Environmental Impact		X		
ICT & Digital Impact		X		
Data Impact		X		
Procurement & subsidy		X		
Council Priorities	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.			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	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 27 February 2026.

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
Report Author	Stuart Limb, Corporate Investigations Manager (Veritau)
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Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) 27 February 2026
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