

2026/27
Counter Fraud Plan

Date: 18 March 2026

APPENDIX 1

CONTENTS

3	Background
3	National Counter Fraud Strategy
5	Fraud Risk Assessment
5	Counter Fraud Development and Work Plans
6	Policy Framework Review
7	Annex A: Fraud risk assessment
15	Annex B: Counter Fraud Development Plan
18	Annex C: Counter Fraud Work Plan

BACKGROUND

- 1 Fraud is a significant risk to the public sector. Fraud is the most common offence in the UK, accounting for 41% of all crime¹. The government estimated that up to £81 billion of public spending was lost to fraud in 2023-24². Financial loss due to fraud can reduce a Council's ability to support public services and can cause reputational damage.
- 2 Fraud committed against the public sector diverts resources away from vital public services into the hands of criminals. CIPFA and the national Fight Fraud and Corruption Locally strategy for councils acknowledge that counter fraud activity is an important part of good governance and key to protecting public funds. Local authorities should ensure that they have the right policies and procedures in place to prevent fraud from happening. They should also promote a strong anti-fraud culture at all levels of the organisation as well as amongst the general public.
- 3 Fraudsters are constantly adapting and refining their approach. This now includes use of AI and online resources leading to more sophisticated attempts to defraud local authorities in some cases. To respond effectively, councils need to monitor the fraud landscape to ensure that their counter fraud measures offer protection from these evolving threats.
- 4 This report sets out the council's approach to addressing fraud, reviews its counter fraud policy framework, updates the annual fraud risk assessment, sets out how counter fraud resources will be used in 2026/7 and, details new and ongoing developmental activity.

NATIONAL COUNTER FRAUD STRATEGY

- 5 Cherwell District Council follows principles set out by CIPFA and Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) to guide and develop its response to fraud.
- 6 CIPFA's 2014 guidance sets out the responsibilities of Local Authority leaders to counter fraud and corruption within their organisations in their Code of practice on managing the risk of fraud and corruption³. The code says that organisations should:
 - acknowledge the responsibility of the governing body for countering fraud and corruption.
 - identify the fraud and corruption risks.
 - develop an appropriate counter fraud and corruption strategy.
 - provide resources to implement the strategy.
 - take action in response to fraud and corruption.

¹ [Progress combatting fraud \(Forty-Third Report of Session 2022-23\)](#), Public Accounts Committee, House of Commons

² [The impact of fraud and error on public funds 2023-24](#), National Audit Office, published November 2024

³ [Code of practice on managing the risk of fraud and corruption](#), CIPFA

- 7 More recently Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) published a counter fraud and corruption strategy for local government⁴. Cherwell District Council follows the principles set out by CIPFA and FFCL to guide and develop its response to fraud.
- 8 The FFCL strategy recommends that councils consider the effectiveness of their counter fraud framework by considering performance against the five key themes set out below.

- **Govern** – *Having robust arrangements and executive support to ensure anti-fraud, bribery and corruption measures are embedded throughout the organisation. Having a holistic approach to tackling fraud is part of good governance.*

Senior officers and elected members set the tone from the top that fraud and corruption is not acceptable. The Council has a robust anti-fraud policy framework that is routinely reviewed to ensure that it continues to remain up to date with legislative requirements and best practice. It also has an employee code of conduct that sets clear expectations of honesty and integrity for all officers. The counter fraud team regularly promote anti-fraud and whistleblowing arrangements through targeted campaigns and employee messages. Counter fraud work is regularly reported to members and officers in the course of the year.

- **Acknowledge** – *Acknowledging and understanding fraud risks and committing support and resource to tackling fraud in order to maintain a robust anti-fraud response.*

Cherwell District Council acknowledges its potential exposure to fraud and corruption by presenting an annual fraud risk assessment to the Audit Committee. It is informed by national fraud trends, as well as local intelligence derived from fraud reported to and investigated by the counter fraud team. The risk assessment is used to help direct counter fraud resources. The Council engages Veritau to provide a counter fraud service which ensures access to specialist fraud prevention and detection resources, including a team of trained investigators.

- **Prevent** – *Preventing and detecting more fraud by making better use of information and technology, enhancing fraud controls and processes and developing a more effective anti-fraud culture.*

Fraud prevention is considered as a matter of course in the work of both the counter fraud and internal audit teams. Where investigations or audits identify weaknesses or lapses in controls, these findings are discussed with senior council officers along with recommendations to strengthen processes. Agreed actions for improvement are followed up to ensure any necessary actions are implemented. The Council recognises that effective fraud prevention relies on skilled and informed staff. The counter fraud team will deliver both targeted training within high risk areas, and general messaging for all employees to raise awareness of how fraud can affect the Council. The counter fraud team also invests in training for its officers

⁴ [A strategy for the 2020s](#), Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally

to ensure they remain up to date in the use of technology to undertake proactive work and assist with investigation.

- **Pursue** – Punishing fraudsters and recovering losses by prioritising the use of civil sanctions, developing capability and capacity to investigate fraudsters and developing a more collaborative and supportive local enforcement response.

Strong action is taken to pursue criminals and to recover funds lost to fraud. All allegations of fraud are assessed to determine the appropriate course of action and support recovery of public funds. Cases of fraud are investigated to criminal standards and the Council considers prosecution of suspected offenders where appropriate, or can apply a range of other potential sanctions. The counter fraud team will work with other law enforcement agencies to support the Council's interests where it has been a victim of fraud. By working together investigations into criminals defrauding both the Council and other organisations – such as the DWP – will be more effective and efficient.

- **Protect** – *Protecting against serious and organised crime, protecting individuals from becoming victims of crime and protecting against the harm that fraud can do to the community.*

Fraud against Cherwell District Council not only harms the authority financially but can also impact residents and communities if funding is diverted from essential services. National data matching helps identify where residents may directly be the victims of identity theft in frauds also affecting the Council. Regular liaison with other councils in the region and nationally can identify fraud that is occurring across boundaries. The counter fraud team will consider opportunities for work with neighbouring authorities as they arise. Work to prevent fraud and seek redress when it does occur is key to helping protect communities from the impact criminality can have on delivering services.



FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9 Veritau assess fraud risks annually to identify priorities for counter fraud work. The 2026/27 fraud risk assessment, contained in annex A, is informed by national and regional reports of fraud affecting local authorities as well as fraud reported directly to the counter fraud team (CFT). Inherent risk ratings show the risk to the Council if no controls are in place to prevent fraud. The residual risk rating indicates the potential risk level after current controls are taken into account estimates the level of potential risk that remains of fraud being attempted and on occasions potentially successful. The residual risks are used to inform areas of focus for fraud awareness training to staff and potentially proactive exercises to provide further assurance. Whilst fraud prevention methods are in place there remains the need for reactive investigations which Veritau in order to seek legal redress and recovery of any proceeds of crime.

The results of the assessment are used to:

- develop or strengthen existing fraud prevention and detection measures.
 - revise the Counter Fraud Policy Framework
 - focus future audit and counter fraud work.
- 10 By their nature, fraud risks are hard to quantify. For example, there are no established methodologies for determining estimated losses due to fraud in most areas. The terms high, medium, and low are therefore used in the risk assessment to provide a general indication of both the likelihood and impact of fraud in each area. However, we have intentionally avoided defining what high, medium, and low risk mean given the inherent uncertainty.
- 11 The risk assessment has been carried out by Veritau, based on our understanding of fraud risks in the sector and our knowledge of controls in place within the Council to prevent, identify and deter fraud. It is used to inform priorities for counter fraud and internal audit work by Veritau. However, it is separate from the wider Council risk management framework.
- 12 The updated risk assessment factors in upcoming work by internal audit and the counter fraud team. The fraud risk assessment will be kept under review so that any significant new or emerging risks are addressed.



COUNTER FRAUD DEVELOPMENT AND WORK PLANS

- 13 The 2026/27 counter fraud development plan is included in annex B. It sets out development activity for the counter fraud team and Cherwell District Council for the year. These priorities are informed by the fraud risk assessment, policy framework review, and seek to develop counter fraud work in each of the five themes set out in the FFCL national counter fraud strategy.
- 14 The counter fraud work plan is included in annex C. The plan sets out the areas of counter fraud work to be undertaken in 2026/27. The time allocation for each area is not defined because it will depend on the levels of suspected fraud reported to the counter fraud team. Reactive investigations (determined by allegations of fraud received) will however account for the largest proportion of work. Priorities for work in the remaining areas will be determined in accordance with the counter fraud development plan and fraud risk assessment.



POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

- 15 The Council's counter fraud policy framework is reviewed annually. The review considers a number of counter fraud related policies (including the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy, the Anti-Money Laundering Policy, the whistleblowing policy, and other associated policies).

- 16 The review found no requirement to change or update policies at the present time.

ANNEX A: 2025/26 FRAUD RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk area #1	Creditor fraud	Inherent risk	High	Residual risk	High
Risk description	<p>Over the course of a number of years attempts to commit fraud against the creditor payment systems of public and private sector organisations has increased in terms of volume and sophistication. The mandatory publication of payment data makes Councils particularly vulnerable to attack. Attacks are often the work of organised criminal groups who operate from abroad. Individual losses due to fraud can be extremely large (in excess of £1 million). The likelihood of recovery is low once a fraud has been successfully committed. The most common issue is mandate fraud (payment diversion fraud) where fraudsters impersonate legitimate suppliers and attempt to divert payments by requesting changes in bank details. Other types of fraud include whaling, where senior members of the Council are targeted and impersonated in order to obtain fraudulent payments. There have been increased instances nationally and regionally of hackers gaining direct access to email accounts of suppliers and using these to attempt to commit mandate fraud. These attempts can be much more difficult to detect and prevent.</p>				
Risk controls	<p>The Council has strong controls in place to identify fraudulent attempts to divert payments from genuine suppliers and to validate any requests to change supplier details. Segregation of duties exist between the ordering, invoicing and payments processes. The residual risk of creditor fraud is still considered to be high due to potentially high levels of loss and the frequency of attacks. The Council's reliance on its own employees, and those of its suppliers, to follow processes, and the inevitable element of human error, are factors in many successful mandate fraud attacks. Nevertheless, the team act with vigilance and experience, and are able to identify problems which may not be picked up through techniques such as Artificial Intelligence.</p>				
Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	<p>Veritau regularly provide support and advice to finance officers responsible for the payment of suppliers. The Internal Audit work programme includes audits of key financial systems and processes. This includes ordering and creditor payment processes, e.g. segregation of duties and controls to prevent mandate fraud. Internal Audit (IA) also undertake duplicate payment checks on a regular basis. The Counter Fraud Team</p>				

(CFT) delivers fraud awareness training to relevant officers. Increased awareness provides a greater chance to stop fraudulent attempts before losses occur. All instances of attempted creditor related fraud are reported to the CFT who then report to relevant agencies, such as the National Cyber Security Centre, as well as directly to the email provider from which false emails originated. The CFT regularly shares intelligence alerts relating to attempted fraud occurring nationally with relevant Council officers to help prevent losses. As part of any investigation of attempted fraud in this area, the CFT will advise on improvements that will strengthen controls.

Risk area #2	Cybercrime	Inherent risk	High	Residual risk	High
Risk description	<p>Cybercrime is an evolving area where criminals are continually refining their techniques in order to overcome controls, obtain unauthorised access and information, and frustrate systems. As cybercrime can be perpetrated remotely, attacks can come from within the UK or overseas. Some cybercrime is motivated by profit, however some is designed purely to disrupt services. Types of cybercrime experienced by local authorities include ransomware, phishing, whaling, hacking, and denial of service attacks. Attacks can lead to loss of funds or systems access/data which could impact service delivery to residents. There have been a number of high-profile cyber-attacks on public and private sector organisations in recent years. Attacks stemming from the hacking of software or ICT service providers have become more prevalent. These are known as supply chain attacks and are used by hackers to target the end users of the software created by the organisations targeted.</p>				
Risk controls	<p>The Council employs highly skilled ICT employees whose expertise is used to help mitigate the threat of cybercrime. The ICT department has processes to review threat levels and controls (e.g. password requirements for employees) on a routine basis. The ICT department uses filters to block communications from known fraudulent servers and will encourage employees to raise concerns about any communications they do receive that may be part of an attempt to circumvent cybersecurity controls. Despite strong controls being in place, cybercrime remains a high residual risk for the Council. The potential for cybercrime is heightened by the availability of online tools. The UK government reported that 50% of businesses and 32%</p>				

	<p>of charities had experienced some form of cyber security breach or attack in 2023/24. Council systems could be exposed by as yet unknown weaknesses in software. Suppliers of software or IT services could also be compromised which may allow criminals access to Council systems believed to be secure. The residual risk of cybercrime remains high due to the constantly evolving methods employed by fraudsters which requires regular review of controls.</p>
<p>Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud</p>	<p>IA routinely include ICT audits in the annual work programme. Cybersecurity is an ongoing priority for IA work. Raising awareness with employees can be crucial in helping to prevent successful cyberattacks. The CFT works with ICT to support activities on raising awareness amongst employees. ICT can access free resources from the National Cyber Security Centre to help develop and maintain their cyber defence strategy.</p>

<p>Risk area #3</p>	<p>Council tax and business rate frauds</p>	<p>Inherent risk</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Residual risk</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Risk description</p>	<p>Council tax discount fraud is a common occurrence. CIFAS conducted a survey in 2022 in which 10% of UK adults said they knew someone who had recently committed single person discount fraud. In addition, 8% of people thought falsely claiming a single person discount was a reasonable thing to do. Individual cases of fraud in this area are of relatively low value but cumulatively can represent a large loss to the Council. Business rates fraud can also involve falsely claiming discounts that a business is not entitled to, e.g. small business rate relief. Reports of business rate fraud are less prevalent than Council Tax fraud but can lead to higher losses in individual cases.</p>				
<p>Risk controls</p>	<p>The Council employs a number of methods to help ensure only valid applications are accepted. This includes requiring relevant information be provided on application forms, and undertaking visits to properties where needed, to verify information. The 2025 National Anti-Fraud Network Counter Fraud Survey noted an increase in the volume of medium to low value fraud cases. The Council routinely takes part in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). The exercise allows Councils to cross check for potential instances of fraud in multiple locations (e.g. multiple claims for single person discount by one individual).</p>				

Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	The CFT delivers fraud awareness training to employees in the revenues team about frauds affecting Council Tax and Business Rates. IA routinely review the administration of Council Tax and Business Rates as one of the Council's key financial systems. The CFT provide a deterrent to fraud in this area through the investigation of potential offences which can, in serious cases, lead to prosecution.
--	--

Risk area #4	Council Tax Reduction	Inherent risk	High	Residual risk	Medium
Risk description	Council Tax Reduction (CTR) is a council funded reduction in liability for council tax. It is resourced through council funds. Fraud and error in this area is of relatively low value on a case-by-case basis but cumulatively fraud in this area could amount to a substantial loss. CTR fraud can involve applicants failing to correctly declare their assets, income, or household composition. Those receiving support are also required to notify relevant authorities when they have a change in circumstances that may affect their entitlement to support. Most CTR claims are linked to state benefits (eg Universal Credit) which are administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).				
Risk controls	The Council undertakes eligibility checks on CTR applicants who are not already in receipt of UC, and on DHP applications. The Council will routinely take part in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) which highlights potentially fraudulent CTR claims. The DWP use data from HMRC on claimants' incomes which is then passed through to Council systems. There are established lines of communication with the DWP where claims for support are linked to externally funded benefits. The Council can undertake joint investigations with the DWP to investigate fraud that affects both organisations. This can help achieve better results for the Council where state benefits are involved.				
Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	The CFT regularly raises awareness of fraud with teams involved in processing claims for CTR. The CFT provide a deterrent to fraud in this area through the investigation of potential fraud which can, in serious cases, lead to prosecution. Concerns of fraud can be reported to the CFT by employees. The CFT will also seek opportunities to raise awareness with the public about the mechanisms for reporting fraud. If fraud cannot be addressed by the Council directly it will be reported to the DWP.				

Risk area #5	Procurement fraud	Inherent risk	High	Residual risk	Medium
Risk description	<p>Procurement fraud, by its nature, is difficult to detect but can result in large scale loss of public funds over long periods of time. Businesses that collude to stifle competition and fix or inflate prices are referred to as a cartel. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) estimates that having a cartel within a supply chain can raise prices by 30% or more. Procurement fraud can also take the form of mischarging, undertaking substandard work, and diverting goods or services. In 2020 CIPFA reported losses of £1.5m for local authorities, due to procurement fraud. It found that 8% of fraud detected in this area involved 'insider fraud'.</p>				
Risk controls	<p>The Council has established Contract Procedure Rules. The rules are reviewed regularly and require a competitive process for significant procurements through an e-tender system. A team of procurement professionals provide guidance and advice to ensure procurement processes are carried out correctly. The Contract Procedure Rules also set out the requirements for declarations of interest to be made. Contract monitoring helps to detect and deter potential fraud. The Procurement Act 2023 has recently come into force. The Act contains new processes which should help prevent and detect fraud in this area.</p>				
Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	<p>Continued vigilance by relevant employees is key to identifying and tackling procurement fraud. IA and the CFT monitor and share guidance on fraud detection issued by the Competition and Markets Authority and other relevant bodies. IA regularly undertake procurement related work to help ensure processes are effective and being followed correctly. The CFT can provide updated fraud training for the procurement team as a result of the legislation.</p>				

Risk area #6	Housing related fraud	Inherent risk	High	Residual risk	Medium
Risk description	The Council has a statutory duty to provide a homelessness and housing options service to Cherwell residents. The Council also has a small housing stock of its own. Housing fraud can deprive local residents, the Council and Housing Associations of social housing provision through false applications.				
Risk controls	The Council has strong controls in place to prevent false applications for housing. The CFT can provide a deterrent to fraud in this area through the investigation of any suspected fraudulent housing application using powers under the Housing Act. Offenders can face criminal prosecution and repossession of their Council or social housing properties.				
Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	The CFT will continue to raise awareness of fraud with teams involved in applications for housing and the management of housing stock. The investigation of reports alleging subletting of Council properties are treated as a priority.				
Risk area #7	Internal fraud	Inherent risk	Medium	Residual risk	Medium
Risk description	Fraud committed by employees is a risk to all organisations. Internal fraud within Councils occurs infrequently and usually results in low levels of loss. However, if fraud or corruption occurs at a senior level there is the potential for a greater level of financial loss and reputational damage to the Council. There are a range of potential employee frauds including theft, corruption, falsifying timesheets and expense claims, abusing flexitime or annual leave systems, undertaking alternative work while sick, or working for a third party on Council time. It can also include theft of council assets, and some employees have access to equipment and material that may be misused for private purposes. Payroll related fraud can involve the setting up of 'ghost' employees in order to obtain salary payments.				

Risk controls	The Council has up to date whistleblowing and anti-bribery policies. Campaigns are held annually to promote the policies and to remind employees how to report any concerns. The Council has checks and balances to prevent individual employees being able to circumvent financial controls, e.g. segregation of duties. Controls are in place surrounding flexitime, annual leave and sickness absence. The Council regularly participates in the National Fraud Initiative. Data matches include checks on payroll records for potential issues.
Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	Veritau liaises with senior management on internal fraud issues. Where internal fraud arises, IA and the CFT will review the circumstances to determine if there are underlying control weaknesses that can be addressed. CFT provide training to HR officers on internal fraud and whistleblowing issues. CFT investigate any suspicions of fraud or corruption. Serious cases of fraud will be reported to the police. In some instances, it may be necessary to report individuals to their professional bodies. The CFT support any disciplinary action taken by the Council relating to internal fraud issues.

Risk area #8	Recruitment fraud	Inherent risk	Medium	Residual risk	Medium
Risk description	Recruitment fraud can affect all organisations. Applicants can provide false or misleading information in order to gain employment such as bogus employment history and qualifications or providing false identification documents to demonstrate the right to work in the UK. There is danger for the Council if recruitment fraud leads to the wrong people occupying positions of trust and responsibility or not having the appropriate professional accreditation for their post. In addition, there have been reports nationally of 'polygamous working' fraud, where an employee, usually in a temporary position, works for a number of different organisations at the same time.				
Risk controls	The Council has controls in place to mitigate the risk of fraud in this area. DBS checks are undertaken where necessary. Additional checks are made on applications for roles involving children and vulnerable adults. References are taken from previous employers and there are processes to ensure qualifications provided are genuine. The National Fraud Initiative undertakes payroll data matches to identify employees who are working for multiple organisations at the same time.				

Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	Where there is a suspicion that someone has provided false information to gain employment, the CFT will be consulted on possible criminal action in tandem with any disciplinary action that may be taken. Applicants making false claims about their right to work in the UK or holding professional accreditations will be reported to the relevant agency or professional body, where appropriate. The CFT routinely share details of identities found to be used in polygamous working with HR to prevent and detect potential issues.
--	--

Risk area #9	Treasury management	Inherent risk	Medium	Residual risk	Low
Risk description	Treasury Management involves the management and safeguarding of the Council's cash flow, its banking, and money market and capital market transactions. The impact of fraud in this area could be significant.				
Risk controls	Treasury Management systems are subject to a range of internal controls, legislation, and codes of practice which protect Council funds. Weaknesses in controls could result in fraud or error through unauthorised transactions. Only pre-approved employees can undertake transactions in this area, and they work within pre-set limits.				
Priorities for internal audit / counter fraud	IA conduct periodic work in this area to ensure controls are strong and fit for purpose.				

ANNEX B: COUNTER FRAUD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Veritau is responsible for maintaining, reviewing, and strengthening counter fraud arrangements at the Council. An annual review of priorities for the future development of counter fraud arrangements is therefore undertaken. Actions to be taken over the next year are set out below.

In addition to the specific areas set out in the table below, ongoing activity will continue in other areas that contribute to the Council's arrangements for countering the risk of fraud, including:

- a rolling programme of fraud awareness training for officers based on priorities identified through the fraud risk assessment and any other emerging issues.
- regular reporting of internal audit and counter fraud activity to the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee (AARC).

Ref	Action Required	Theme	Target Date	Responsibility	Notes / Further Action Required
1	Provide fraud awareness training to Corporate Leadership Team	Governing	May 2026	Veritau / Corporate Leadership Team	Training to be provided on the risks and officer responsibilities following the new failure to prevent fraud provisions.
2	Continue providing fraud awareness to staff in emerging areas, including housing, parking, revenues, recruitment and polygamous working frauds.	Governing	Ongoing	Veritau	
	Provide fraud awareness training to Members of the Audit and Risk Committee	Governing	December 2026	Veritau	

Ref	Action Required	Theme	Target Date	Responsibility	Notes / Further Action Required
3	Review and maintain the Council's fraud risk assessment	Acknowledging	Ongoing	Veritau / AARC	The fraud risk assessment is subject to annual review. Emerging threats will be considered as required during the course of the year to make sure the risk assessment remains up to date.
4	Support service areas in collation and submission of data for the National Fraud Initiative within agreed deadlines.	Pursuing	October 2026	Veritau / Service areas	A full biannual exercise is schedule to take place in 2026/27. Data submission is anticipated for October 2026.
5	Continue active engagement with neighbouring bodies and local authorities.	Protect	April 2026	Veritau	Fraud can occur across Council boundaries. Information sharing and joint working could help detect and deter fraud.
6	Support the council to introduce the new Crisis and Resilience Fund.	Protect	Ongoing	Veritau / Service area	Helping to prevent fraud in this new scheme will protect funds meant to support the community in times of crisis.

ANNEX C: COUNTER FRAUD WORK PLAN

A large part of the work of the team involves undertaking reactive investigations. The level of investigations is driven by referrals received from officers and the public about suspected fraud. Other work will be undertaken in accordance with priorities determined by the Fraud Risk Assessment and Counter Fraud Development Plan. A high-level summary of areas for counter fraud work is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Counter fraud work plan

Programme area	Purpose
▲ Counter Fraud Framework	Monitoring changes to regulations and guidance, reviewing counter fraud risks, and support to the council with maintenance of the counter fraud framework. Updates on significant fraud trends and counter fraud activities will be provided to the Audit and Governance Committee during the year.
▲ Proactive Work	This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising awareness of counter fraud issues and procedures for reporting suspected fraud - for example through training and provision of updates on fraud related issues • targeted proactive counter fraud work - for example through local and regional data matching exercises • support and advice on cases which may be appropriate for investigation and advice on appropriate measures to deter and prevent fraud.
▲ Reactive Investigations	Investigation of suspected fraud affecting the council. This includes feedback on any changes needed to procedures to prevent fraud reoccurring.
▲ National Fraud Initiative	Coordinating submission of data to the Public Sector Fraud Authority for the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data matching programme and investigation of subsequent matches.
▲ Fraud Liaison	Acting as a single point of contact for the Department for Work and Pensions, to provide data to support housing benefit investigations.