

This report is public	
Counter Fraud Progress Report	
Committee	Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee
Date of Committee	20 November 2024
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Regeneration and Property, Councillor Lesley McLean.
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	8 November 2024
Report of	Assistant Director of Finance, Michael Furness

Purpose of report

This report presents an update on the counter fraud work undertaken so far in 2024/25, and asks the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee to note the progress report.

1. Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To note and approve 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 for 2024/25 (contained in appendix 1) should be noted by this committee as part of its responsibility for overseeing the work of the counter fraud team.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance 11 November 2024
Legal	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Shahin Ismail, Interim Head of Legal, 08 November 2024
Risk Management	There are no risk implications arising directly as a consequence of this report. Updating aforementioned policies constitute a mitigating action ensures compliance and that effective process are in place to prevent and address possible fraud and corruption Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 07 November 2024

Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact		X		There are no equalities implications as a direct consequence of this report. All policies are developed in line with our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Framework. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 07 November 2024
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		N/A
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		N/A
Climate & Environmental Impact		X		N/A
ICT & Digital Impact		X		N/A
Data Impact			X	The counter fraud team will ensure that the council meets statutory guidance relating to the provision of data to the Public Sector Fraud Authority's National Fraud Initiative. Sarah Butler, Corporate Fraud Manager, 28 October 2024.
Procurement & subsidy		X		N/A
Council Priorities	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.			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	N/A			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 With effect from 1 May 2024, Cherwell District Council's counter fraud service has been provided by Veritau Limited. On 1 November 2024, the Council became a member of Veritau Public Sector Limited (VPS) and has entered into a long-term contract to deliver counter fraud services. This report summarises progress with delivery of the 2024/25 work programme.

4. Details

- 4.1 The counter fraud progress report in appendix 1 details fraud work undertaken in 2024/25 up to 25 October 2024.

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 overseeing the work of the counter fraud team. 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 2024/25

Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
Report Author	Sarah Butler, Corporate Fraud Manager (Veritau)
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Corporate Director Approval (unless Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)	Report of Statutory Officer, Section 151 Officer