

This report is public	
Counter Fraud Progress Report	
Committee	Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee
Date of Committee	19 March 2025
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property & Regeneration Councillor Lesley McLean
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	07 March 2025
Report of	Assistant Director of Finance, (S151 Officer)

Purpose of report

This report presents an update on counter fraud work undertaken so far in 2024/25.

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 for 2024/25 (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	The are no financial implications arising directly from this report Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 6 March 2025
Legal	The progress report indicates a number of instances of fraud which were identified and are under investigation. The recommendations of this report are to note the progress of the report, and as such there are no legal implications arising from this report. Denzil – John Turbervill, Head of Legal Services. 05.03.2025
Risk Management	There are no risk implications rising directly from this report. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 05 March 2025

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 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	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. Annual losses due to fraud and error are estimated as being as high as £81 billion in the United Kingdom. Veritau are

engaged to deliver a counter fraud service for the council. The service helps mitigate fraud risk, investigate suspected fraud, and to take appropriate action when it is detected.

4. Details

4.1 The counter fraud progress report in appendix 1 details fraud work undertaken in 2024/25, covering the period 1 May 2024 to 26 February 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
Report Author	Sarah Butler, Corporate Fraud Manager (Veritau)
Report Author contact details	Sarah.Butler@veritau.co.uk 01904 554627
Corporate Director Approval (unless Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)	Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) 06 March 2025.