

This report is public	
2025-26 Counter Fraud Plan	
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 the annual counter fraud plan for 2025/26.

1. Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee resolves to:

- 1.1 Note the counter fraud plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The council's counter fraud service is delivered by Veritau. The counter fraud plan for 2025/26 (contained in appendix 1) should be noted by this committee as part of its responsibility for monitoring the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources, and reviewing the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	The are no financial implications arising directly from this report Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 06 March 2025.
Legal	The plan identifies a number of action points which will require input from the legal and procurement departments. Legal Services will work with Veritau to help to implement the plan where required. Denzil John Turbervill, Head of Legal Services. 05 March 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. The council

can reduce the impact of fraud by managing fraud risk through robust policy and procedure. It is considered best practice to regularly review fraud risk and strengthen counter fraud arrangements to meet it.

4. Details

- 4.1 The 2025-26 Counter Fraud Plan, contained in appendix 1, updates the council's fraud risk assessment, evaluates the counter fraud policy framework, and sets priorities for the development of counter fraud work in the coming financial year. The plan also sets out the outcomes from our review of the council's counter fraud policy framework.

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 2025/26 counter fraud plan. This is so that it can fulfil its responsibility for monitoring the counter fraud strategy, actions and resources, and reviewing the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption. 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 2025/26
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
Report Author	Sarah Butler, Corporate Fraud Manager (Veritau)
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Corporate Director Approval (unless	Assistant Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), 06 March 2025.

Corporate Director or Statutory Officer report)	
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