

<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Internal Audit, Veritau
-------------------	---------------------------------

<b>Submitted to:</b>	Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee
----------------------	---------------------------------------

<b>Date:</b>	6 October 2023
--------------	----------------

<b>Title:</b>	Annual Counter Fraud Framework Report
---------------	---------------------------------------

<b>Report for:</b>	Information
--------------------	-------------

<b>Status:</b>	Public
----------------	--------

<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
----------------------------	-----

<b>Key decision:</b>	No
----------------------	----

<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
-------------	----------------

<b>Urgent:</b>	No
----------------	----

<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
-------------	----------------

### **Executive summary**

This report details the annual review of the Council's counter fraud framework. It includes an updated action plan associated with the Council's Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy and an updated assessment of fraud risk the council faces, both of which the committee is asked to note.

## **Purpose**

1. To update members on the impact of fraud nationally and in particular on local authorities; summarise outcomes from the annual review of the Council's counter fraud policy framework; and present an updated Counter Fraud Strategy action plan and Fraud Risk Assessment.

## **Background and relevant information**

2. The Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee has a responsibility under the Council's constitution to keep under review the Council's counter fraud framework which is made up of policies such as the Anti-Fraud, Bribery, and Corruption Policy.
3. To protect public funds, it is important for the Council to have a framework in place to prevent, detect and deter fraud, and to recover any losses. A strong anti-fraud framework that minimises loss through fraud and error will ensure that the Council has more resources available to focus on providing services for people with the greatest needs, which is fundamental to tackling inequality and poverty.
4. The annual counter fraud framework report is included in appendix 1 to this report.

## **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

That the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee notes:

- the updated Counter Fraud Strategy Action Plan
- the Fraud Risk Assessment

## **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

5. A strong counter fraud framework that minimises loss through fraud or error and maximises recovery could mean the Council has more resources to achieve its strategic aims and to provide services for people with the greatest needs. All councils have a duty to protect public funds.

## **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

6. This report is for information. There are no other options available.

## **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

7. There are no specific impacts or implications.

### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

8. There are no specific impacts or implications.

### ***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

9. There are no specific impacts or implications.

## **Financial**

10. There are no specific impacts or implications.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
n/a		

### **Appendices**

1	Annual Counter Fraud Framework Report
---	---------------------------------------

### **Background papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**Contact: Jonathan Dodsworth, Assistant Director – Corporate Fraud, Veritau**  
**Email: [jonathan.dodsworth@veritau.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.dodsworth@veritau.co.uk)**