

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Head of Internal Audit, Veritau
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Submitted to:	Audit Committee
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Date:	13 March 2025
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Title:	2025/26 Counter Fraud Plan
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Report for:	Information
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Safe and resilient communities
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Executive summary	
<p>This report sets out counter fraud work planned for 2025/26. It contains an updated fraud risk assessment, an assessment of counter fraud work at the Council against national counter fraud strategies, and an annual counter fraud development plan and work plan.</p>	

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide Members with an update on planned counter fraud activity in 2025/26.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Audit Committee

- Notes the 2025/26 fraud risk assessment
- Notes the counter fraud development and work plans.

3. Background and relevant information

3.1 Fraud is a significant risk to the public sector. Annual losses are estimated as being as high as £59 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.

3.2 The Council's fraud risk and compliance with national counter fraud strategy should be evaluated regularly. Resources allocated should be in line with the threat the Council faces. Council policies should help mitigate fraud risk and reflect current best practice. Veritau and the Council should regularly undertake developmental work to strengthen counter fraud work. All of these elements are considered annually in preparing the counter fraud plan.

3.3 The 2025/26 Counter Fraud Plan is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

4. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

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

5. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no specific impacts or implications.
Legal	There are no specific impacts or implications.
Risk	There are no specific impacts or implications.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	There are no specific impacts or implications.
Climate Change / Environmental	There are no specific impacts or implications.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	There are no specific impacts or implications.
Data Protection	There are no specific impacts or implications.

Appendices

1	2025/26 Counter Fraud Plan
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
n/a	n/a	n/a

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