



Middlesbrough Council

Counter Fraud Plan 2021/22



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This plan sets out the activities that the counter fraud service will deliver for Middlesbrough Council. A total of 150 days of counter fraud work has been agreed for 2021/22. This work will comprise reactive investigations which are determined by referrals received from officers and the public about suspected fraud. Other work will be undertaken in accordance with priorities determined by the Counter Fraud Risk Assessment and Counter Fraud Strategy Action Plan (presented to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee in September).

2. 2021/22 COUNTER FRAUD PLAN

- 2.1 A summary of planned areas of work is set out in the table below.

Area	Scope
Counter Fraud General	Monitoring changes to regulations and guidance, review of counter fraud risks, and support to the council with the maintenance of the counter fraud policy framework. This will include completion of the annual counter fraud risk assessment and review of the counter fraud policy and strategy.
Proactive Work	This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">raising awareness of counter fraud issues and procedures for reporting suspected fraud - for example through training and provision of updates on fraud related issuestargeted proactive counter fraud work - for example through local and regional data matching exercisessupport and advice on cases which may be appropriate for investigationadvice and guidance on measures to deter and prevent fraudpromotion of the council's whistleblowing arrangements
Reactive Investigations	Investigation of suspected fraud affecting the council. This includes feedback on any changes needed to controls and procedures to prevent fraud recurring.
Covid-19 response work	Counter fraud checks to detect fraudulent applications for Covid-19 grants. Investigation of potential fraud highlighted through post assurance work. Assisting the council to recover money lost to fraud through grants.
National Fraud Initiative (NFI)	Coordinating the submission of data to the Cabinet Office and the distribution of matches from the NFI data matching programme.