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| MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL |  |
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| Report of: | Head of Internal Audit, Veritau |
| Submitted to: | Audit Committee |
| Date: | 24 July 2025 |
| Title: | Counter Fraud Annual Report |
| Report for: | Information |
| Status: | Public |
| Council Plan priority: | Delivering Best Value |

Executive summary

This report contains the counter fraud annual report (appendix 1), which summarises counter fraud work undertaken in 2024/25. It details levels of savings achieved by the council as a result of counter fraud work. The report also provides the committee with information about whistleblowing concerns raised during the year.

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the committee with a summary of counter fraud work undertaken in 2024/25.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Audit Committee

- Note the results of counter fraud work undertaken during the year

3 Background and relevant information

- 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.
- 3.2 The annual counter fraud report is contained in appendix 1.

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

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| 1 | Counter fraud annual report 2024/25 |
|---|-------------------------------------|

Background papers

| Body | Report title | Date |
|------|--------------|------|
| n/a | n/a | n/a |

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