

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Internal Audit, Veritau
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Date:</b>	25 June 2026
<b>Title:</b>	Counter Fraud Annual Report
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Safe and resilient communities

**Proposed decision(s)**

That the Committee:

- **NOTE** the results of counter fraud work undertaken during 2025/26.

**Executive summary**

This report contains the counter fraud annual report (appendix 1), which summarises counter fraud work undertaken in 2025/26. 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 2025/26.

## 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

1	Counter fraud annual report 2025/26
---	-------------------------------------

Contact: Jonathan Dodsworth  
 Email: [jonathan.dodsworth@veritau.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.dodsworth@veritau.co.uk)