

**Report for: GOVERNANCE, AUDIT  
AND RISK  
MANAGEMENT AND  
STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	INFORMATION REPORT – Corporate Anti-Fraud Team Year-End Report 2020/21
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance & Assurance
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix1 – Corporate Anti-Fraud Year-End Report 2020/21

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

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This report sets out the 2020/21 year-end report for the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team.

This report is presented to enable the Committee to fulfil the requirement of its Terms of Reference:

- To consider reports from the Head of Internal Audit/ Corporate Anti-Fraud Manager on the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team's performance at mid-year and at year-end.

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Background**

- 2.1. Annually the GARMS Committee considers a mid and full year reports from Internal Audit & Corporate Anti-Fraud covering progress against the agreed annual plans to help fulfil its purpose in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

### **Corporate Anti-Fraud Team Year-End Report (Appendix 1)**

- 2.2. Of the 14 work streams contained within the plan, 8 (57%) were achieved, 3 (22%) were substantially achieved, 1 (7%) was partially achieved, 1 (7%) was not achieved and 1 (7%) was re-evaluated and changed for 2021/22.
- 2.3 In terms of the key performance indicators, 3 (60%) were achieved and 2 (40%) were substantially achieved.
- 2.4 Performance against the Fraud Plan during 2020/21 is below expectation and usual achievements due to the challenges of the pandemic situation. Investigation Officers have been unable to be as proactive as normal with site visits and interviewing suspects suspended.
- 2.5 Virtual interviewing formally (PACE) was explored during the year but a decision was taken not to proceed after the legislative challenges of PACE interviewing virtually became too burdensome, also coupled with the variable nature of officers' internet connection.
- 2.5 Plans are underway to recommence face to face interviews at the Civic Centre once a thorough risk assessment has been complete and approved by CSB (Silver).

## **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications to this report.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications to this report, the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team service was delivered within budget for 2020/21.

## **Risk Management Implications**

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **No**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below. **n/a**

The main risk relating to the performance of the CAFT is as follows:

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Mitigations</b>	<b>RAG Status</b>
Insufficient work is undertaken during the year to provide an adequate fraud deterrent and response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Production of an annual plan to guide the work of the team</li><li>• Performance management of the team</li><li>• Performance management reporting to GARMS Committee</li><li>• An adequately resourced CAFT team and/or appropriate working methods to ensure adequate deterrent/response</li></ul>	

## **Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

N/A

## **Council Priorities**

- 1. Improving the environment and addressing climate change**
- 2. Tackling poverty and inequality**
- 3. Building homes and infrastructure**
- 4. Addressing health and social care inequality**
- 5. Thriving economy**

The work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team service supports the delivery of the Council's priorities by providing assurance on the effectiveness of fraud risk management controls and responding effectively when fraud occurs.

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

As this is an information report legal / finance / Corporate Director clearances are not necessary.

### **Mandatory Checks**

Ward Councillors notified: ~~YES~~\*/ NO\*, as it impacts on all Wards

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Justin Phillips, Corporate Anti-Fraud Manager  
Tel: 0208 424 1609

**Background Papers:** None.

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Consultation | <del>YES</del> / NO |
| 2. Priorities   | YES / <del>NO</del> |