

21 September 2017		ITEM: 5
Standards and Audit Committee		
Counter Fraud & Investigation Annual Report		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: David Kleinberg, Counter Fraud & Investigation		
Accountable Assistant Director: N/A		
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Director of Finance and IT		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Counter Fraud & Investigation Department (CFID) was formed in 2014 as both an inward and outward (traded service) facing entity with the sole responsibility for Thurrock and others to prevent, detect and deter all instances of alleged economic crime affecting the authority including: allegations of fraud, theft, corruption, bribery and money laundering.

CFID has developed working arrangements with other agencies to further the Council's counter-fraud culture providing support to those bodies where necessary.

CFID success has grown and has been recognised both nationally and internationally as the leading public authority fraud service as a model approach to tackling fraud and corruption.

This report outlines the performance of the CFID over the last year as a whole as well as the work CFID have delivered nationally for other public bodies.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 The Audit Committee notes the performance of the Counter Fraud & Investigation Directorate over the last year.

2. Introduction & Background

2.1 To present the Counter Fraud & Investigation Department's Annual Report for 2016/17 to the Committee for consideration.

2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken by the CFID throughout the year in Thurrock as well as the pre-funded work we do for other public bodies around the UK.

3. Performance

3.1 The Counter Fraud & Investigation Department (CFID) has made good progress in delivering the 2016/17 counter fraud work plan over the last year.

- 264 reports of suspected fraud had been received
- 180 of those cases have been closed as 'no fraud'
- 117 investigations are still being conducted
- 60 sanctions have been delivered in cases of proven fraud.

3.2 **Appendix 1** contains the CFID performance data for Thurrock and its other partners it supports.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 This report provides a detailed update to the Committee on the improved counter-fraud measures for the Council and how it is reducing fraud under the council's anti-fraud strategy.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 All Directors and Heads of Service were consulted with the new strategy to be taken by the Council in its anti-fraud approach.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 Work undertaken by to reduce fraud and enhance the Council's anti-fraud and corruption culture contributes to the delivery of all its aims and priorities supporting corporate governance.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Sean Clark**
Head of Corporate Finance

There are no financial implications contained in this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**

Monitoring Officer, Deputy Head of Legal Services

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 section 4 (2) require that:

The relevant body shall be responsible for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's functions and which includes the arrangements for the management of risk.

This proactive and investigative work undertaken by the Directorate as well as the regular monitoring of compliance with the requirements of Fighting Fraud Locally discharges this duty.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

There are no implications related to this report.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None.

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 – CFID Annual Report

Report Author:

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