APPENDIX 1

**Counter Fraud
& Investigation**

See it. Report it. Stop it.

Counter Fraud Plan & Strategy

2019/20

thurrock.gov.uk

Foreword

"Last year we detected more fraud than previous years. The £3.4m detected represents annual social housing rents for 811 properties or 127 social care placements.

Increasing our resilience to the risk of fraud is our priority to ensure the most vulnerable of our society are not affected by the impact of fraud on our frontline services.

David Kleinberg,
Assistant Director for Counter Fraud & Investigations

The Counter Fraud & Investigation team began operating at an advanced level following government sponsorship in 2014. That grant investment in the service ensured that the best possible resources and capabilities could be leveraged at the issue of fraud and economic crime.

Having the best tools and resources still requires a continually refreshed understanding of the threats local government face and a focus of activity. The service has been part of the Government Counter Fraud Profession, with David Kleinberg the CF&I Assistant Director being seconded to write its standards from 2016.

In 2018 the new part of the department was launched – known as NATIS - the National Investigation Service, which has supported over 40 public authorities across the UK facing serious and organised crime.

Having the new NATIS function working side-by-side with Counter Fraud & Investigation provides access to an enhanced intelligence picture to protect the most vulnerable.

This new strategy & plan takes account of that additional resource and capability – the first of its kind anywhere in the UK, here in Thurrock.

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Our Control Strategy

This year we install our control strategy which defines how we will be working over the next 12 months. This means that all the casework we adopt will be assessed and progressed in consideration of the 4 Questions below.

The Counter Fraud & Investigation team's partnership with the National Investigation Service ensures that we are able to identify at an earlier stage intelligence relating to the key priorities below, particularly those affecting the most vulnerable of society.

Who are We?

A specialist function to protect public finance from fraud and serious crime, using our legal framework as a local authority service

What is Our Purpose?

1 Protect the public purse from crime

2 Support the wider-public sector with shared, advanced capabilities

What are Our Priorities?

Crimes affecting a vulnerable adult or child

Insider threats in local government

Organised crime targeting local government

Improving local government's resilience to cyber crime

How do we Succeed?

Always acting Ethically in everything that we do, working to our values, attitudes and principles

Consider opportunities to work collaboratively with others for the benefit of our purpose, sharing our knowledge, experience and expertise

Apply the 4 'P' Strategy to Prevent, Protect and Prepare local government for economic crime, pursing offenders where necessary

Ensure our teams are fully equipped to respond to the threats faced from economic crime

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Proactive Work Plan

Risk Area	Activity	When	Current Status	Responsible Officer	Date Complete
Council-wide	Launch a new e-Learning Package for Countering Fraud, Bribery, Corruption and Money Laundering.	July – Sep 2019	Package has been designed and acquired. User tests will be completed during August 2019, for full roll out in September.	Michael Dineen	
Council-wide	Develop an early intervention risk matrix for social housing tenants targeted by criminality.	July 2019 – March 2020	Raptor Teams, EP Head of Intel and Housing all to complete a 'risk matrix' regarding reporting between all parties.	Philip Butt	
Council-wide	Cybercrime risk assessment across the council.	Nov 2019	Data Asset registers have been received; identifying where data is stored. NATIS to complete analysis on High Risk areas.	David Nash	
Council-wide	Enhancing counter fraud and money laundering controls for Social Care Finance.	Nov 2019	Meetings with Head of Social Care Finance to be arranged.	Michael Dineen	
Council-wide	Renewed Education & Marketing Campaign for Countering Fraud, Bribery, Corruption and Money Laundering	January 2020	The new 'See it, Report it, Stop it' campaign has been developed and a further 2 posters have been designed (below) Snr Manager to meet with Comms. to agree strategy.	Nicholas Coker	

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Revenues	Use of Data Matching Solution to compare NNDR data with law enforcement data.	July 2019	Meeting with Gary Malley has taken place, new team has taken responsibility for this and further meetings to be arranged this quarter.	Nicholas Coker	
Council-Wide	NFI results to be analysed and any criminal investigations to be raised and dealt with by NATIS.	June 2019-March 2020	NATIS to review results and ensure any required investigations are recorded.	David Kleinberg Tanya Furber	

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