

## Appendix 1: Status Report, Counter Fraud Grant Funding Project

	Business Case Extract Actions	Current Status
<b>Acquire a Data Aggregation System</b>		
1	<p>Identify and acquire a data aggregation system to enable Thurrock Council, Southend Borough Council and their partners to share fraud risk data.</p> <p>It should capture all data concerning the delivery of social housing and compare it against other data types to identify fraud risk indicators. It should have its own 'casework management' module built in to track the progression of action against those fraud risk indicators.</p> <p>Once the core system has been designed, additional organisations wishing to join the scheme will simply be given user accounts with limited access to data relevant to their job function.</p>	<p>Considerable work has been completed with a supplier who has developed a system that delivers the core specification, which is scalable across the UK as more partners sign-up to the anti-fraud hub.</p> <p>The system is due to be delivered to the Directorate on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015.</p> <p>The Group Manager, Counter Fraud &amp; Investigation and the Proactive Fraud Specialist will then commence User Acceptance Testing (UAT), which is due to be completed by 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.</p> <p>Feedback will then be provided to the supplier on any 'snagging' with the system and its outputs against the specification. A further five days have been scheduled for the resolution of any issues.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this system will go live for Thurrock Council and Southend Borough Council on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015.</p>
<b>Increase the size of the Intelligence Bureau</b>		
2	<p>Expand the Intelligence Bureau capability by two additional officers so that the 'matched data' in point 1 can be tested and analysed. This will generate additional investigative actions for team to review.</p>	<p>Two additional posts have been created linked to this funding. It is anticipated that staff will be in post by June 2015.</p>
<b>Increase the size of the Investigation and Forensic Computing Unit</b>		
3	<p>Increase the Investigation and Forensic Computing Unit capacity by two additional officers.</p>	<p>The Job Evaluation Process has been concluded providing the roles to be recruited to. These two additional posts are also linked to this funding. It is anticipated that these staff will be in post by June 2015.</p>

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<b>Increase the size of the Directorate's Financial Investigation Unit</b>		
4	<p>Increase the financial investigation capacity by two additional Accredited Financial Investigators so that the increased investigative actions can be resolved in a more timely manner.</p> <p>The Financial Investigation Team is responsible for utilising the specialist powers available to law enforcement agencies, such as local authorities to take redress against offenders, where proportionate legal and necessary.</p>	<p>So far, one of the two Accredited Financial Investigator roles has been filled following a competitive recruitment process.</p> <p>The remaining vacant post will be advertised again on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 for a period of 2 weeks, on the specialist government Financial Investigation Gateway.</p> <p>It is anticipated that interviews will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 by the Group Manager, Counter Fraud &amp; Investigation and Head of Internal Audit.</p>
<b>Provide counter fraud and investigation services to other public authorities</b>		
5	<p>Provide a two tier counter fraud and investigation service framework for other public bodies to use, at cost.</p> <p>The two tier solution has been split into the 3 sectors: Local Authority, Registered Housing Providers and Government Departments and Agencies.</p> <p><b>Tier 1</b> is a complete framework including a suite of policies, proactive plans and reactive specialist investigative support where fraud and corruption is suspected through to possible sanction and redress.</p> <p><b>Tier 2</b> is a menu of individual elements of that service in support of existing counter fraud and investigation functions in that organisation.</p>	<p>In exploring the potential to do this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the individual elements that will make up the governance framework are being reviewed jointly by the Group Manager, Counter Fraud &amp; Investigation and the Head of Internal Audit against new guidance issued by bodies such as CIPFA</li> <li>• legal opinion has been sought from Counsel in respect of taking any investigation to sanction stage in the criminal courts as the Group Manager, Counter Fraud &amp; Investigation believes that prosecution on behalf of other bodies e.g. government departments (excluding Registered Housing Providers) sits outside the existing powers held by Local Authorities. This legal opinion is due to be received from Counsel on 12th March 2015</li> <li>• discussions have been had with nine Registered Housing Providers who have expressed an interest in buying a full counter fraud and investigation service from the Directorate (Tier 1)</li> <li>• the Directorate is seeking Cabinet Approval at its host authority, Thurrock Council to work with Registered Housing Providers under Service Level Agreements. It is anticipated that the result of this consideration will be known by 12th March 2015.</li> </ul>

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