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Meeting	Audit Committee
Date	8 December 2011
Subject	Members' Item – Councillor Geof Cooke
Report of	Head of Governance
Summary	This report informs the Committee of a Member's Item.

Officer Contributors	Chidilim Agada – Business Governance Service
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Audit Committee
Function of	Council
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	Not applicable

Contact for further information: Chidilim Agada – Business Governance Service – Tel: 020 8359 2037.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the Members' Item and instructs the Assistant Director of Finance - Audit and Risk Management and/or other relevant officers to provide a response.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As and when issues raised in this way are progressed they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Members' Items allow Members of the Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of the Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 None in the context of this report.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 Council Procedure Rules Section 2 - Committees and Sub-Committees – Paragraph 7.1 states a Member will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or sub-committee on which he/she serves.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Councillor Geof Cooke has submitted the below Members' Item:

“According to an Audit Commission survey of public bodies, criminals are using forged letters, based on information on web sites, and follow-up telephone calls to persuade councils to change bank details for payments. Nationally £7M has been lost in this way with a further £20M of frauds detected in time. Would officers confirm whether Barnet has been targeted in this way and what safeguards have been put in place to prevent non-approved switching of payments whether through fraud or otherwise?”

- 9.2 The Assistant Director of Finance - Audit and Risk Management and the Head of Corporate Anti Fraud Team (CAFT), will arrange for officer comment to be given on the item at the meeting.

9.3 This item is also covered in the Procurement Controls and Monitoring Action Plan report already on the agenda for this meeting.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Email from Councillor Cooke dated 10 November 2011.

10.2 Any person wishing to inspect the background paper above should telephone 020 8359 2037.

Legal: JEL