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| Meeting        | Audit Committee   |
| Date           | 29 April 2014   |
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>Annual Report of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team 2013 – 2014</b>                 |
| Report of      | Assurance Assistant Director  |
| Summary        | The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the CAFT Annual Report 2013-14. |

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| Officer Contributors                        | Clair Green<br>Assurance Assistant Director   |
| Status (public or exempt)                   | Public  |
| Wards Affected                              | None  |
| Key Decision                                | No  |
| Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in | Not Applicable  |
| Function of                                 | Council   |
| Enclosures                                  | Appendix A: CAFT Annual Report 2013 -14   |
| Contact for Further Information:            | Clair Green – 0208 359 7791<br><a href="mailto:clair.green@barnet.gov.uk">clair.green@barnet.gov.uk</a> |

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Audit Committee considers and comments on the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Annual Report 2013 -14.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Delegated Powers Report (ref: BT/2004-05 -2 March 2004) - The Corporate Anti Fraud Team (CAFT) was launched on 7th May 2004
- 2.2 Audit Committee 8 April 2013 - (Decision item 9) – the Audit Committee included in the work programme for 2013/4 that an Annual Report on the work of the Corporate Anti- Fraud Team be produced to this meeting.
- 2.3 Audit Committee 8 April 2013 (Decision item 7) – the Audit Committee approved the Internal Audit and Anti Fraud Strategy and Annual Plan and Risk Management approach 2013-2014.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Council has a responsibility to protect the public purse through proper administration and control of the public funds and assets to which it has been entrusted. The work of the Corporate Anti Fraud Team supports this by continuing to provide an efficient value for money anti fraud activity, that is able to investigate all referrals that are passed to us to an appropriate outcome, whilst continuing to offer support, advice and assistance on all matters of fraud risks including prevention, fraud detection, money laundering, other criminal activity, and deterrent measures, policies and procedures, whilst delivering a cohesive approach that reflects best practice and supports all the new corporate priorities and principles.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 The ongoing work of the CAFT supports the council's risk management strategy and processes. Where appropriate, outcomes from our investigations are reported to both Internal Audit and Risk Management to support their ongoing work and to assist in either confirming effective anti fraud controls and or suggested areas for improvement.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1 Pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010, the council has a public sector duty to have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; promoting good relations between those with a protected characteristic and those without. The, relevant, 'protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and

maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. It also covers marriage and civil partnership with regard to elimination discrimination

5.2 Effective systems of anti-fraud provide assurance on the effective allocation of resources and quality of service provision for the benefit of the entire community.

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

6.1 The structure and budget that CAFT operate within has proven successful and provides sufficient resource and commitment that is required to carry out an effective anti fraud service and deliver the key objectives as set out within the strategy.

**7. LEGAL ISSUES**

7.1 None in the context of this report.

**8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)**

8.1 The Council's Constitution under Responsibility for Functions - The Audit Committee's terms of reference, details the functions of the Audit Committee including, "To monitor Council policies on Raising Concerns at Work" and the anti-fraud and anti-corruption strategy.

**9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

9.1 Attached to this report at Appendix A is the CAFT Annual Report 2013-14.

9.2 The purpose of this annual report is to provide the Committee with a summary on the outcome of all CAFT work undertaken during 2013-14 as set out in the approved 2013-14 annual strategy and work plan.

**10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None.

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| <b>Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)</b> | <b>JH</b>  |
| <b>Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)</b>   | <b>N/A</b> |