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| | <p>Audit Committee</p> <p>20 April 2017</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Title</p> | <p>Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Annual Report 2016-17</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p> | <p>Clair Green – Interim Assurance Director</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p> | <p>All</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Status</p> | <p>Public</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p> | <p>Appendix 1 - CAFT Annual Report 2016-2017</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p> | <p>Clair Green clair.green@barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 7791</p> |

Summary

The CAFT annual report provides a summary on the outcome of all CAFT work undertaken during 2016-17 including the objectives as set out in our annual strategy and work plan.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Audit Committee considers and comments on the CAFT Annual Report 2016 -17.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Audit Committee included in the work programme for 2016/17 that an Annual Report on the work of the Corporate Anti- Fraud Team is produced to this meeting.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 N/A

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The CAFT Annual Report will be reported to Council as part of the Audit Committee Annual Report.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 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 (CAFT) 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 them to an appropriate outcome. They 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. The aim of the team is to deliver a cohesive approach that reflects best practice and supports all council's corporate priorities and principles.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 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.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council has a statutory obligation to ensure the protection of public funds and to have an effective system of prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.
- 5.3.2 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 the effective development and operation of the Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team; and
- To consider regular anti-fraud progress reports and summaries of specific fraud issues and investigation outcomes.

5.3.3 There are no Legal issues in the context of this report.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 The on-going 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 on-going work and to assist in either confirming effective anti-fraud controls and or suggested areas for improvement.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 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

5.5.2 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.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Delegated Powers Report (ref: BT/2004-05 -2 March 2004) - The Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) was launched on 7th May 2004.

6.2 Audit Committee 28th July 2016 - (Decision item 12) – the Audit Committee included in the work programme for 2016/17 that an Annual Report on the work of the Corporate Anti- Fraud Team be produced to this meeting.
