



Audit Committee

14 February 2022

Title

Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Q3 Progress Report 2021-22

Report of

Executive Director for Assurance

Wards

All

Status

Public

Urgent

NO

Key

NO

Enclosures

*Appendix 1 - CAFT Q3 Progress Report
1st October – 31st December 2021*

Officer Contact Details

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Summary

This report covers the period 1st October – 31st December 2021 and represents an up-to-date picture of the work undertaken by Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) during that time

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the CAFT Progress Report covering the period 1st October – 31st December 2021

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Audit Committee included in the work programme for 2021/22 that a quarterly report on the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team is reported to this meeting.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree and accept the Q3” report

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Any actions will be agreed implemented and logged for future audit committee

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.

4.2 Social Value

- 4.2.1 **N/A**

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 outlines in article 7 - The Audit Committee's terms of reference, details the functions of the Audit Committee including:

5.3.3 To monitor the effective development and operation of the Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team

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 and policies relating to anti-fraud provide assurance on the effective allocation of resources and quality of service provision for the benefit of the entire community.

5.6 **Corporate Parenting**

5.6.1 N/A

5.7 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 None

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 N/A

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Audit Committee 14th December 2020 included in the Committee Forward Work Programme that quarterly progress report on the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team be produced to this meeting
