



Audit Committee

16th January 2023

Title

**Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT)
Q3 report 2022-23**

Report of

Executive Director of Assurance

Wards

All

Status

Public

Urgent

No

Key

No

Enclosures

*Appendix 1 - CAFT Progress Report
1st October 2022 – 9th December 2022*

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Summary

This report covers the period *1st October 2022 – 9th December 2022* and represents an up-to-date picture of the work undertaken by Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) during that time

Recommendation

That the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team referred to in appendix 1 be noted

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Audit Committee included in the work programme for 2022/23 that a quarterly report on the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team is produced to this meeting.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the Q3 CAFT report for 2022-23

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 **None**

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

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

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The current corporate plan (Barnet Plan 2021-2025) was adopted in March 2021.

Following the May 2022 elections, the council now has a new administration and a new corporate plan, consistent with the new administration's priorities will be brought forward shortly.

- 5.1.2 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 CAFT service operates within a £0.710m staffing budget. This is part funded through POCA money, the Housing Revenue Account, and Special Parking Account. The current resource structure has proven successful in meeting operational targets, and is sufficient to carry-out an effective anti-fraud service and deliver key objectives 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 make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. An effective system of prevention and detection of fraud and corruption supports this obligation..

5.3.2 Article 7 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Audit Committee's terms of reference, which include 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.

7.1 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Delegated Powers Report (ref: BT/2004-05 -2 March 2004) - The Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) was launched on 7th May 2004.
 - 7.2 Audit Committee 16th July 2019 (Decision item 14) the Audit committee 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.
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