



## Audit Committee

26 April 2023

<b>Title</b>	<b>Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Annual Report 2022-23</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Executive Director of Assurance
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	Not urgent
<b>Key</b>	Not Key
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1 CAFT Annual Report 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022- 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
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### Summary

This report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 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 work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team referred to in the CAFT Annual Report for 2021-22 is acknowledged

#### 1. Why this report is needed

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

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

- 2.1 To acknowledge and review the work carried out by the CAFT in regard to the types of Fraud affecting the council during the financial year 2022-23

## **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

- 3.1 None

## **4. Post decision implementation**

- 4.1 Any decisions or requests for further information in relation to incidents of fraud will be logged for future audit committee meetings.

## **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 outlines in article 7 - 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

#### **5.4 Insight**

5.4.1 N/A

#### **5.5 Social Value**

5.5.1 N/A

#### **5.6 Risk Management**

5.6.1 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.

#### **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 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

5.7.2 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.

#### **5.8 Corporate Parenting**

5.8.1 No issues in the context of this report

#### **5.9 Consultation and Engagement**

5.9.1 N/A

#### **5.10 Environmental Impact**

5.10.1 None in the Context of this report

### **6. Background papers**

6.1 Audit Committee 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Agenda Item 15 Work Programme [Work Programme 2022-23 Final.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)