



## Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee (GARMS)

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| <b>Title</b>  | <b>Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT)<br/>Half Year Report 2023-24</b>   |
| <b>Date of meeting</b>  | 27 November 2023   |
| <b>Report of</b>  | Clair Green Executive Director of Assurance  |
| <b>Wards</b>  | All  |
| <b>Status</b>   | Public   |
| <b>Urgent</b>   | No   |
| <b>Appendices</b>   | Appendix A – CAFT Half Year Report 1st April 2023 - 30th September 2023  |
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| <b>Summary</b>  |  |
| This report covers the period 1st April 30th September 2023 and represents an up-to-date picture of the work undertaken by Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) during that time. |  |
| <b>Recommendations</b>  |  |
| <b>=That the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team referred to in the CAFT Half Yearly Report for 2023-2024 is acknowledged</b>   |  |

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| <b>1. Reasons for the Recommendations</b>  |
| 1.1 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 2023-24   |
| <b>2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended</b>   |
| 2.1 None.  |
| <b>3. Post Decision Implementation</b>   |
| 3.1 None   |
| <b>4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations</b>   |
| <p><b>Corporate Plan</b></p> <p>4.1 The Corporate Plan puts caring for People, our Places and the Planet at the heart of everything we do. The Work of the CAFT contributes to the plan by ensuring the protection of the public purse which allows investment in appropriate services for our communities.</p> <p><b>Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures</b></p> <p>4.2 Activities of the CAFT will be in line with the departments service plan and objectives</p> <p><b>Sustainability</b></p> <p>4.3 N/A</p> <p><b>Corporate Parenting</b></p> <p>4.4 No issues in the context of this report.</p> <p><b>Risk Management</b></p> <p>4.5 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.</p> <p><b>Insight</b></p> <p>4.6 Details in this report have been produced by extracting investigation details from the case management system’ ECINS’.</p> <p>a) The detail in the report shows fraud trends occurring within the reporting period.</p> <p>b) Data in this report will be presented to CMT and shared with the Director of Street scenes as well as the Operations Director of Barnet Homes.</p> <p>The details contained in this report will be shared with the Head of internal Audit and will be used to inform the audit forward plan.</p> <p><b>Social Value</b></p> <p>4.7 {N/A.}</p> |

## **5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)**

5.1 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.

## **6. Legal Implications and Constitution References**

6.1 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.

6.2 The Council's Constitution outlines in Part 2B the powers and duties of Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee (GARMS). Paragraph 2.4.11 relating to Anti-Fraud Activity, includes to monitor the effective development and operation of the Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) and approve the Counter Fraud Framework.

## **7. Consultation**

7.1 Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee (GARMS) included in the work programme for 2023/24 that a Half Yearly report on the work of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team is produced to this meeting.

## **8. Equalities and Diversity**

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

## **9. Background Papers**

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