

Audit Committee

31st May 2018



Report of: Deputy Chief Internal Auditor

Title: Annual Counter Fraud Report 2018/19

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Deputy Chief Internal Auditor

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Recommendation

The Audit Committee note the Annual Counter Fraud report for 2018/19.

Summary

This Report provides the Committee with summary of the work undertaken by the Internal Audit – Counter Fraud team and the savings generated from counter fraud work in 2018/19.

Significant Matters Arising:

Key messages arising from this report at Appendix A;

- The Counter Fraud team has generated significant recoverable, ongoing and notional savings for the Council.
- The team covers a wide range of Counter Fraud and investigative work within its current structure.
- Developments within the service are ongoing and continuous.

1. Policy
Audit Committee Terms of Reference

2. Consultation

Internal – Statutory Policy Board including S151 Officer, Cabinet Member for Governance, Resources and Finance and Monitoring Officer.

External – N/A

3. Context

3.1 This is the Annual Report outlining the Counter fraud work that has taken place in Bristol City Council. The report is provided to:

- Give an overview of the work of the Internal Audit – Counter Fraud and Investigations team and other anti-fraud work which has taken place within the Council;
- Present details of the savings identified through counter fraud work.
- Spotlight the volume and variety of investigation work that the Counter Fraud team undertakes and the competing priorities.
- Update Members on the actions taken in relation to the review undertaken of arrangements against the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption.

The full report can be found at Appendix A

4. Proposal

4.1 The Audit Committee notes the work of the Counter Fraud and Investigations team during 2018/19.

5. Other Options Considered – N/A

6. Risk Assessment

The work of Internal Audit Counter Fraud team reduces fraud losses and increases the potential for prevention and detection of such issues.

Public Sector Equality Duties

7a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

7b) No Equality Impact anticipated from this report.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – N/A
Financial – N/A
Land – N/A
Personnel – N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A – Annual Counter Fraud Report 2018/19.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None.