

# Audit Committee Name

27<sup>th</sup> June 2022



**Report of:** Chief Internal Auditor

**Title:** Fraud Annual Report 2021/22

**Ward:** N/A

**Member Presenting Report:** Simba Muzarurwi – Chief Internal Auditor

## Recommendation

The Audit Committee note the Fraud Annual Report for 2021/22.

## Summary

This Report provides the Committee with a summary of the work undertaken by the Internal Audit – Counter Fraud and Investigations Team during the year including outcomes of investigation work and Whistleblowing referrals received in the year.

## The significant issues in the report are:

- Counter fraud work within the Council continued to generate significant savings: £529k in recoverable savings and notional savings of £3.1m.
- Whilst there are delays due to the legal system still recovering from the pandemic, tenancy fraud work has delivered 31 regains or other positive outcomes against a target of 35.
- Ongoing work to check for possible fraudulent applications for the pandemic related business support grants.
- Establishment of a fraud hub and increased use of data analytic tools to prevent and detect fraud.
- An update on whistleblowing work.
- Declarations of interests, gifts and hospitality review has identified areas of improvement and training.

## **Policy**

Audit Committee Terms of Reference

## **Consultation**

### **1. Internal**

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

### **2. External – N/A**

## **Context**

This is the Annual Report outlining the 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 and investigation work.
- Demonstrate the variety of investigation, fraud detection and prevention work undertaken by the Team.
- Update Members on the outcomes relating to Whistleblowing referrals and other fraud referrals.

The full report can be found at Appendix A

## **Proposal**

3. The Audit Committee note the work of the Counter Fraud and Investigations Team.

## **Other Options Considered**

4. N/A

## **Risk Assessment**

5. The work of Internal Audit Counter Fraud Team reduces the financial loss from fraud and increases the potential for prevention and detection of fraud.

## **Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision**

Equality impact assessments have been undertaken for new fraud initiatives planned or implemented in the year.

No direct equality impact is 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 2021/22

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**

None