

Audit Committee Meeting

30th May 2023



Report of: Chief Internal Auditor

Title: Fraud Annual Report 2022/23

Ward: N/A

Member Presenting Report: Simba Muzarurwi – Chief Internal Auditor

Recommendation

The Audit Committee note the Fraud Annual Report for 2022/23.

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: £492K in recoverable savings and notional savings of around £3 million.
- Tenancy fraud work has delivered 36 outcomes from tenancy fraud work which is either a property recovered, or some other positive outcome such as an application for a tenancy cancelled. This is against a target of 40.
- The establishment of a fraud hub is enabling the Service to increase the use of data analytic tools to prevent and detect fraud.
- An independent review of the Council's whistleblowing arrangements by the Devon Audit Partnership provided substantial assurance that whistleblowing allegations are referred, assessed, investigated and managed appropriately'



Policy

Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Consultation

1. Internal

Internal – Corporate Leadership Board including S151 Officer 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 Audit Committee received a half year update in November 2022.

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 – Counter Fraud Annual Report 2022/23

Appendix 1 – Outcomes from Corporate Investigations

Appendix 2 – Outcomes from Whistleblowing Cases

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None