

ANTI-FRAUD TEAM UPDATE REPORT

Audit Committee - 12 January 2016

Report of Chief Finance Officer

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

This report supports the Key Aim of Effective Delivery of the Corporate Plan

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Searles

Contact Officer(s) Bami Cole, Ext. 7236, Glen Moore, Ext 3240

Recommendation to Audit Committee: That Members note the content of the report, the work of the Anti- Fraud Team between April 2015 and November 2015 and the proposed re-structure of fraud investigation resources in February 2016.

Reason for recommendation: The Audit Committee is required to review the work of the Anti-Fraud Team.

Introduction and Background

- 1 This report sets out the details of the activities of the Anti-Fraud Team during the period April 2015 and November 2015 and updates the Committee on the progress of the proposed re-structure of the team in February 2016 caused by the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service (S-FIS) within the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP).
- 2 The Anti-Fraud Team is part of the Audit, Risk and Anti-Fraud shared services, working jointly with Dartford Borough Council. The team is responsible for carrying out benefit fraud investigations and assists both Councils in highlighting instances of fraud which could adversely affect the level of taxes/income they collect/receive.

Summary of Key issues in the Report

- 3 Details of the activities of the team during April 2015 and November 2015 are attached as an Appendix to the report. The Appendix also includes details of the proposed re-structure of Sevenoaks District Council's fraud investigation services in light of the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service.

Key Implications

Financial

4 Not applicable.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

5 The Council is required to have effective arrangements in place to counter, or minimise the risk of fraud incidences against the public purse. This report demonstrates the impact of the Council's existing counter fraud arrangements and its decision to set up an effective in-house anti-fraud team to deal with any residual fraud which will not be transferred over to the DWP, following the implementation of the single fraud investigation service. Management believes that this arrangement will facilitate the Council's responsibility to mitigate the risk of fraud incidences within its remit.

Equality Assessment

6 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Sustainability Checklist

7 Not Applicable

Conclusions

8 This report sets out the achievements of the Anti-Fraud Team between April 2015 and November 2015 and outlines the proposed re-structure of the Anti-Fraud Team in light of the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service.

Appendices

Appendix - Anti-Fraud Update Report

Background Papers:

None.

Adrian Rowbotham
Chief Finance Officer