

COUNTER FRAUD & COMPLIANCE TEAM REPORT 2017/18

Audit Committee - 19 July 2018

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. Scholey

Contact Officer(s) Adrian Rowbotham, Ext.7153, Glen Moore Ext. 7471.

Recommendation to Audit Committee:

That Members note the work of the Counter Fraud & Compliance Team carried out during the year ended 31 March 2018.

Reason for recommendation: The Audit Committee is required to review the work of the Counter Fraud & Compliance Team.

Introduction and Background

1. The first promise within Sevenoaks District Council's Corporate Plan is to provide value for money. This means keeping costs low whilst delivering the services that people want at the best quality.
2. Local authorities collect Council Tax and Business Rates from local residents/businesses in order to pay for local services. The Council is determined to maximise the revenue from these local taxes as they support local services, but balance this by supporting the most vulnerable groups by allowing discounts, reliefs and allowances to those people who are entitled to receive them.
3. The Counter Fraud & Compliance Team has been specifically located with the Council's Revenues and Benefits Department so that an additional level of protection is introduced within its Council Tax and Business Rates collection sections.

Summary of Key Issues in the Report

4. An overall summary of the work conducted by the Counter Fraud & Compliance Team during 2017/18.

5. A breakdown of the successes achieved by the Counter Fraud & Compliance Team during the period April 2017 to March 2018.
6. A summary of future plans for 2018/19.

Key Implications

Financial

Not applicable.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

The Council is required to have effective anti-fraud arrangements in place in order to safeguard public funds and prevent the pursuance of crime. The Counter Fraud & Compliance Team will contribute towards the council's fraud prevention initiatives.

Equality Assessment

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

Conclusions

This report sets out the work conducted by the Counter Fraud & Compliance Team during 2017/18. Members are requested to note the report and the plans for the future.

Appendices

Appendix A - Counter Fraud & Compliance Team
End of Year Report 2017/18.

Background Papers:

None.

Adrian Rowbotham
Chief Finance Officer