

#### **Item 4 (a) – Anti-Fraud Team Report 2014/15**

The attached report was considered by the Audit Committee, relevant minute extract below:

##### Audit Committee – 23 June 2015 (Minute 7)

The Anti-Fraud Manager presented a report setting out the activities of the Anti-Fraud Team during 2014/15 and details of a proposed re-structure of the Team in February 2016. Members also reviewed the Anti-Fraud, Sanctions and Prosecution Policy, which had been updated to take account of a change in, and align with, the Department for Work & Pensions' Sanctions Policy.

Responding to Members' questions, the Anti-Fraud Manager confirmed that the Team's current role was predominantly as a Housing Benefit anti-fraud team and the past year had seen the highest levels of detected fraud since the shared service had begun, particularly due to a new real-time HMRC data matching service. From February 2016 and the creation of the Single Fraud Investigation Service (S-FIS) the Team would no longer have responsibility for dealing with Housing Benefit fraud. The Team was seeking to broaden into a Corporate Fraud Team and pick up those areas not covered by the S-FIS. The Anti-Fraud Manager drew Members' attention to the Cost Benefit Analysis 2014/15 which showed a net financial benefit to the council and anticipated that the new team would also benefit the council. The Team would reduce by 1.0 FTE following the restructure.

The Chairman expressed an interest in the Committee considering an update on the Team in February 2016 following the introduction of S-FIS.

##### Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That

- a) the report and the work of the Anti-Fraud Team carried out in 2014/15 and the proposed re-structure of fraud investigation resources in February 2016 be noted; and
- b) it be recommended to Cabinet to approve the Anti-Fraud, Sanctions and Prosecution Policy.