

COUNTER FRAUD & COMPLIANCE TEAM REPORT 2023/24

Audit Committee – 9 July 2024

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer Customer and Resources

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

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

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Kevin Maskell

Contact Officer: 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 2024.

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

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Counter Fraud & Compliance Team is the authority's counter fraud resource in relation to external fraud matters.
- 2 Sevenoaks District Council has a zero tolerance to all forms of fraud and corruption and is committed to providing the best value for money for its residents.
- 3 The Counter Fraud & Compliance Team co-ordinates the Council's participation in government led counter fraud initiatives as well as devising campaigns to protect Council revenues and resources.

Summary of Key Issues in the Report

- 4 A summary of the key activities of the Counter Fraud & Compliance Team during 2023/24.
- 5 A summary of future plans for 2024/25.

Key Implications

Financial

Not applicable.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

The Council is required to have effective counter 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.

Climate Change Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to tackle the challenge of climate change. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Conclusions

This report sets out the work conducted by the Counter Fraud & Compliance Team during 2023/24. Members are requested to note the report and the plans for the future.

Appendices

Appendix A – Counter Fraud & Compliance Team End of Year Report 2023/24.

Background Papers

None

Jim Carrington-West

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer – Customer & Resources