

Brighton & Hove City Council

Audit and Standards Committee

Agenda Item 8

Subject: Counter Fraud Annual Report 2021-22

Date of meeting: 28th June 2022

Report of: Executive Director of Governance, People & Resources

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Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 The report covers the counter fraud work completed in the year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 in accordance with the Counter Fraud Strategy and Framework.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Committee note the fraud activity completed during 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

3. Context and background information

3.1 The Council's Internal Audit team investigates allegations of fraud and irregularity against the Council and is committed to upholding the Council's Counter Fraud Strategy and Framework. The Council's strategy is aligned to the Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy 2020 which is the governments 'blueprint' for tackling fraud in Local Government.

3.2 Within Internal Audit, the Counter Fraud Partnership Team comprises four auditors with counter fraud expertise who work across all departments and two housing fraud investigators. Together they provide a dedicated proactive counter fraud and responsive investigation function. It also works on behalf of the Council to ensure that its counter-fraud arrangements are robust by raising awareness of fraud risk, reviewing and improving fraud risk management arrangements, using data to actively identify fraudulent activity and monitoring the extent to which the Council is impacted by fraud. Where fraud is suspected or identified, the team provides a professional investigation service and advises on control measures that will prevent recurrence.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 The Counter Fraud Annual Report outlines:

- Details of the work undertaken during the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022;
- Outcomes from investigation activities; and
- Other counter fraud activity.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 None.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The committee is asked to note the report.

7. Financial implications

7.1 Counter Fraud activities were delivered within existing budgetary resources.

Name of finance officer consulted: James Hengeveld

Date consulted (06/06/22):

8. Legal implications

8.1 The Council's Audit & Standards Committee has delegated authority for – amongst other things – reviewing and providing reassurance on the Council's arrangements for preventing and detecting fraud and corruption.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted 10.6.22

9. Equalities implications

9.1 There are no direct equalities implications.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no direct sustainability implications.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Counter Fraud Annual Report 2021/22