

Audit and Governance Committee



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| Date of meeting: | 28 November 2023 |
| Title of Report: | Counter Fraud Services Half Year Report 2023-24 |
| Lead Member | Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) |
| Lead Strategic Director | David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance) |
| Author: | Ken Johnson Counter Fraud Services Manager |
| Contact Email: | Ken.johnson@plymouth.gov.uk |
| Your Reference: | HYR/CFST/23-24 |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Confidentiality: | Part I - Official |

Purpose of Report

This report summarises the work carried out during the first half of the financial year 2023/24 by the Counter Fraud Services Team at Devon Audit Partnership to support the Council and counter fraudulent threats to the Council's budget and reputation, as well as providing reassurance to the residents of Plymouth that the public purse is being protected appropriately.

Recommendations and Reasons

The Audit Committee is recommended to note the Half Year Report.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Effective counter fraud processes are an essential element of internal control and as such are an important element of good corporate governance. For this reason alternative options are not applicable.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Maintaining sound systems of internal control and protecting the public purse ensures that those who legitimately need the support and services of the Council get them and this therefore supports the achievement of corporate and service objectives.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None arising specifically from this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None arising specifically from this report

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

The Counter Fraud Services Team specifically support the council's overall governance arrangements.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

| Ref. | Title of Appendix | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i> | | | | | | |
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| A | Counter Fraud Services Half Year Report | | | | | | | |

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

| Title of any background paper(s) | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i> | | | | | | |
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Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 31/10/23.

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry approved via email

Date approved: 13/11/23

