# **Audit and Governance Committee**



Date of meeting: 22 July 2025

Title of Report: Counter Fraud Service Annual Report 2024/25

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)

Lead Strategic Director: Ian Trisk-Grove (Service Director for Finance)

Author: Tony Rose, Head of Devon Assurance Partnership

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Your Reference: AR/CFST/24-25

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

## **Purpose of Report**

This report summarises the work carried out during the financial year 2024/25 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**

1. The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended to note the Annual Report.

#### Alternative options considered and rejected

1. 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.

#### **Financial Risks**

None

#### **Legal Implications**

(Provided by LB)

None arising directly 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.

No impacts directly arising from this report. The work of the internal audit service is an intrinsic element of the Council's overall corporate governance, risk management and internal control framework.

# **Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref	. Title of Appendix	<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b> (if applicable) 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.				indicate Iule 12A		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Α	PCC Counter Fraud Annual Report 2024-25							

## **Background papers:**

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> 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)						
	is not for	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.					
	ı	2	3	4	5	6	7

# Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ian Trisk-Grove, Service Director for Finance

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

Date agreed: 08/07/2025

<sup>\*</sup>Add rows as required to box below

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry approved via email

Date approved: 11/07/2025