

AUDIT COMMITTEE

24 SEPTEMBER 2020

AUDIT & COUNTER FRAUD UPDATE TO END OF AUGUST 2020

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Chief Audit Executive

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the work, outputs and performance of the Audit & Counter Fraud Team for the period 1 April to 31 August 2020.

1. Budget and policy framework
 - 1.1. Council delegates responsibility for the oversight and monitoring the effectiveness of the Audit and Counter Fraud Shared Service to the Audit Committee.
2. Background
 - 2.1. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the Standards) require that: *The chief audit executive must report periodically to senior management and the board on the internal audit activity's purpose, authority, responsibility and performance relative to its plan. Reporting must also include significant risk exposures and control issues, including fraud risks, governance issues and other matters needed or requested by senior management and the board.*
3. Audit and Counter Fraud Annual Report 2019/20
 - 3.1. As previously agreed with Members, the Audit & Counter Fraud Team will provide three update reports throughout the year in addition to the annual report. This is the first update report for 2020-21 and provides details of the alternative duties undertaken by the service during the emergency response, progress made as part of the recovery phase in relation to completion of 2019-20 reviews and progress made against the scheduled work plan agreed by Members in July 2020.
 - 3.2. The Audit and Counter Fraud Update Report for 01 April to 31 August 2020 can be found at Appendix 1.

4. Risk management

- 4.1 This report, summarising the work of the Audit and Counter Fraud team, provides a key source of assurance for the council on the adequacy and effectiveness of its internal control arrangements.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. An adequate and effective Audit and Counter Fraud function provides the Council with assurance on the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of council resources in delivery of services, as well as helping to identify fraud and error that could have an adverse effect on the financial statements of the Council.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require local authorities to: undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance. The Section 151 Officer of a local authority is responsible for establishing the internal audit service; Gravesham Borough Council has delegated this responsibility to the Section 151 Officer of Medway Council.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the outputs and performance of the Audit & Counter Fraud Service for Medway for the period 1 April to 31 August 2020 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - Audit & Counter Fraud Annual Report 2020-21

Background papers

None