

AUDIT COMMITTEE

18 MARCH 2021

AUDIT AND COUNTER FRAUD UPDATE

Report from: James Larkin, Head of Audit & Counter Fraud Shared Service
(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 01 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.

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. Update report
 - 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 third and final update report for 2020-21 and provides details of the progress made against the scheduled work plan agreed by Members in July 2020.
 - 3.2. The Audit and Counter Fraud Update Report for 01 December 2020 to 31 January 2021 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. The Committee is requested to note the outputs and performance of the Audit & Counter Fraud Service for Medway for the period 01 December 2020 to 31 January 2021 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Lead officer contact

James Larkin, Head of Audit and Counter Fraud Shared Service
james.larkin@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Audit & Counter Fraud update report 01 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.

Background papers

None