Medway
COUNCIL
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Audit Committee

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Counter Fraud Update Report

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Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the work, outputs, and performance of the Counter Fraud Team for the period 01 April to 31 July 2026.

1. Recommendations

1.1. The Committee is recommended to note the outputs and performance of the Counter Fraud Team for Medway for the period 1 April to 31 July 2026 as detailed at Appendix 1.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1. Council delegates responsibility for the oversight and monitoring the effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Shared Service to the Audit Committee.

3. Background

3.1. The Counter Fraud Service reports periodically to senior management and the board, providing updates on progress against agreed workplans and the results of any investigative activity.

4. Counter Fraud Update Report

4.1. The report at Appendix 1 is the first of three updates to be produced during 2026-27: detailing the work undertaken by the Counter Fraud Team between 01 April and 31 July in relation to the agreed workplan.

4.2. It also provides a summary of the results of investigative activity and the savings achieved, as well as the outturns against the teams set performance measures.

5. Risk management

5.1. This report, summarising the work of the Counter Fraud Team, provides a key source of assurance for the council on the adequacy and effectiveness of its counter fraud arrangements.

6. Climate change implications

6.1. There are no climate change implications in this report.

7. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Implications

7.1. There are no direct LGR implications linked to this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1. An adequate and effective Counter Fraud function helps to identify fraud and error that could have an adverse effect on the financial statements of the Council.

8.2. The budgeted costs for 2026-27 for the Counter Fraud elements of the Shared Service are £394,791 with Medway's share of these costs being £289,806 (this includes internal investigation resource costs). Savings resulting from investigative activity to date total £37,069

9. Legal implications

9.1. The Section 151 Officer of a local authority is responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs. The work of the Counter Fraud Team supports this responsibility by identifying and investigating alleged misuse of public money, applying sanctions, and seeking redress as appropriate.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Counter Fraud Update Report

Background papers

None