

<b>Report to:</b>	Audit and Governance Committee	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Wednesday 15 December 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Annual Fraud Report		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

### Summary:

The purpose of the Counter Fraud Annual Report 2020-2021 is to provide assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee on the effectiveness of Sefton Council's ('the Council') arrangements in countering fraud, bribery and corruption and to present the work carried out during the past financial year to minimise the risk of fraud.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update on counter fraud activities during the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- Demonstrate how the Council is dealing with some of the fraud risks it is subjected to.
- Outline how resources available have been used to tackle fraud and emerging priorities going forward

### Recommendation(s):

(1) Members are requested to note the progress detailed in the report.

### Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The report meets one of the key actions from Sefton's self-assessment against the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA's) Code of Fraud Practice and therefore is good governance.

### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None due to providing a report is good governance and is in accordance with CIPFA guidance on the management of fraud.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

- (A) Revenue Costs** - There are no direct revenue costs arising from this report as the report highlights activity undertaken by the Assurance Team to prevent fraud.
- (B) Capital Costs** - There are no direct financial revenue costs arising from this report

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> There are no resource implications arising from the report as it is a summary of existing activity during the previous financial year.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> There are no legal implications arising from the report as it is a summary of existing activity during the previous financial year.	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The report has a potential positive impact as preventing and or recovering fraud can ensure that more public monies are available to be spent on the key priorities for the Council including helping to mitigate the effects of Climate Change.	

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: Positive impact
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Positive impact
Commission, broker and provide core services: Positive impact
Place – leadership and influencer: Positive impact
Drivers of change and reform: Positive impact
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Positive impact
Greater income for social investment: Positive impact

Cleaner Greener: Positive impact
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## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6629/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4830/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

None

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Annual Fraud Report 2020/21

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The purpose of the Counter Fraud Annual Report 2020-2021 is to provide assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee on the effectiveness of Sefton Council's ('the Council') arrangements in countering fraud, bribery and corruption and to present the work carried out during the past financial year to minimise the risk of fraud.
- 1.2 This supports the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015, which states that the Council must have measures in place 'to enable the prevention and detection of inaccuracies and fraud'.
- 1.3 The report also meets one of the key actions from Sefton's self- assessment against the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA's) Code of Fraud Practice. Audit and Governance Committee receives regular quarterly updates on counter fraud activity of the Assurance Team.

1.4 Management of the Council's 'Whistle Blowing' arrangements are the responsibility of the Council's Chief Legal and Democratic Officer and is reported on separately.

1.5 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update on counter fraud activities during the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- Demonstrate how the Council is dealing with some of the fraud risks it is subjected to.
- Outline how resources available have been used to tackle fraud and emerging priorities going forward.

## **2. Recommendation**

2.1 Members are requested to note the report.