

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANTI-FRAUD REPORT 2023-24

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To demonstrate to the public, members, staff and partners the progress made during 2023/24 in developing an anti-fraud culture;
- 1.2 To publicise the actions taken when fraud or misconduct has been identified.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1. The council's framework to combat fraud, corruption and misappropriation was approved by Audit Committee in November 2023. The framework follows national guidance as laid out in the document "Fighting fraud and corruption locally (FFCL)- the local government counter fraud and corruption strategy 2020's, and is based upon five key principles:

- Govern
- Acknowledge and understand
- Prevent and detect
- Pursue
- Protect

2.2. The attached annual report highlights the work carried out in each of these areas and demonstrates the council's continuing commitment to minimise the risk of fraud.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Committee is asked to consider whether the Annual Fraud Report provides sufficient assurance on the adequacy of counter fraud arrangements during 2023/4. The Committee is invited to ask questions about the contents of the report and seek clarification as necessary.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The report is designed to provide the Committee with the assurance required to fulfil its role effectively.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Regular reviews of counter fraud arrangements should safeguard the council's assets and ensure that value for money is achieved in the use of resources. Minor costs associated with the telephone and publicity for the Hotline will continue to be maintained within the Finance Service budget.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Fraud is a risk to both the council's finances and its reputation. Resources lost to fraud, both monetary and through the provision of services are resources that are no longer available to support the council's aims and in turn the community.

6.2 Regular reviews of counter fraud arrangements should minimise the risk of fraudulent attacks on council finances and services.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (if required)

7.1 There is no impact assessment required for this report. This progress report does not constitute a key decision and there are no new material impacts to individuals, the community, workforce, place or other impacts as a result of this update.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 There are no conflicts of interests to declare.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Audit Committee considers the assurance provided by the Annual Fraud Report on the adequacy of counter fraud arrangements.

DIRECTOR: OUTCOMES

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Date: 28 March 2024

Background papers used in the preparation of this report

None.