

Regulation Audit & Accounts Committee

19 July 2021

Annual Fraud Report 2020-21

Report by Director of Finance & Support Services /Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Regulation Audit & Accounts Committee with the annual fraud report 2020-21 summarising the outcome of counter fraud activity undertaken during the year ending 31 March 2021.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Committee note the annual fraud report for the year ended 2020-21.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Council has a responsibility to embed effective standards for countering fraud and corruption across the organisation, supporting good governance and demonstrating effective financial stewardship and strong public financial management.
- 1.2 The Southern Internal Audit Partnership work with the County Council in the review and investigation of any reported incidents of fraud and irregularity. Given the size and diversity of the organisation, there has been a relatively low level of reactive fraud work required within the County Council during the year ending 31 March 2021.
- 1.3 Work has also been undertaken on a suite of proactive initiatives to explore, prevent, and detect fraud risks across the organisation.

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
<p>Fraud and corruption is left undetected or unreported resulting in a financial loss to the Council and the public purse.</p>	<p>The County Council maintains a suite of strategies and policies to support the effective management of the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and corruption (Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy and Response Plan; Whistleblowing Policy and Anti Bribery Policy).</p> <p>The Southern Internal Audit Partnership facilitate a programme of proactive and reactive work to complement the internal audit strategy and annual plan focusing resource against assessed fraud risks in addition to new and emerging threats.</p>

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Appendices

Appendix A – Internal Audit Annual Fraud Report 2020-21

Background papers

None