

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER 2023

Report Title	Counter Fraud Team Annual Report – 2022/23			
Purpose of Report	To provide the Committee with an annual report on counter fraud activity in the Council, led by the Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) Counter Fraud Team.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to accept the progress against the Counter Fraud Annual Plan 2022/23.			
Consultation and Feedback	Counter Fraud Investigation findings and outcomes are discussed with the S151 and the Monitoring Officer			
Report Author	Piyush Fatania, Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) Tel: 01452 328883 Email: piyush.fatania@gloucestershire.gov.uk			
Options	There are no alternative options that are relevant to this matter.			
Background Papers	None.			
Appendices	Appendix A: ARA Counter Fraud Team 2022-23 Annual Report			
Implications (details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 An effective Counter Fraud Team is a key part of the governance, risk management and internal control framework established by the Council. It provides independent investigation, counter fraud risk management, and fraud awareness (including training and resources) which underpins delivery of the Council's objectives and safeguards its limited resources.

2.0 MAIN POINTS

2.1 The Counter Fraud Action Plan 2022/23 summarises:

- i. The outcomes of the high level workstreams and the progress against the 2022/23 Counter Fraud Annual Plan; and
- ii. Demonstrates the Council's compliance with local government 'Annual Fraud Transparency Data' 2022-23 reporting.

2.2 This is a new report, produced by the CFT, for the Audit and Standards Committee.

3.0 CONCLUSION

3.1 The report purpose is to provide the Committee with a reasonable assurance that the ARA Counter Fraud Team is operating effectively.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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Risk Assessment:

Failure to deliver effective governance will negatively impact on the achievement of the Council's objectives and priorities.

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendation of the report. The Counter Fraud Team's activity supports the best use of finance, ICT, human resources and property resources. This assists the Council to minimise risk areas and thereby reduce the prospects of legal challenge.

Investigations by the Counter Fraud Team will be subject, where necessary, to legal advice or support.

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations made within this report.