



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 26 JUNE 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

ANNUAL COUNTER FRAUD REPORT 2025-26

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Corporate Governance Committee (the Committee) of the counter fraud activities that took place across the Council during the 2025-26 financial year.

Background

2. Within its terms of reference, the Committee has a responsibility to monitor the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for combating fraud and corruption and approve relevant policies. The Council does not have a dedicated counter fraud investigation team. Responsibility for co-ordinating the Council's approach to counter fraud lies with the Internal Audit and Assurance Service, Corporate Resources department. As an upper-tier local authority, the Council does not have exposure to some of the high-volume, high-risk, fraud areas that typical district and unitary councils do, such as Council Tax, Housing Tenancy or Right to Buy. Looking to the future, a unitary model of local government for Leicestershire would see exposure to this wider range of fraud risks.
3. Although the Council does not provide many of the services that have traditionally been at high risk of fraud that is no reason for the Council to become complacent regarding the risk of fraud and its effect on the public purse. A strong commitment to countering the risk of fraud and other financial irregularity is key in protecting the Council's assets, monetary and otherwise. The Council fully recognises its responsibility for spending public money and holding public assets. The prevention, and if necessary, the investigation, of fraud is therefore an important aspect of its duties.
4. The Council advocates strict adherence to its anti-fraud framework and associated policies. The Council has a publicised **zero-tolerance** approach to fraud, corruption and other financial irregularities in all its forms. The Council will take all necessary steps to identify, investigate and disrupt instances of fraud and

take appropriate action against any individuals or organisations involved in fraud or corruption.

5. The CIPFA Code of Practice – Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption recommends an annual report is published summarising counter fraud activity across the organisation.
6. The Annual Counter Fraud Report 2025-26 is attached as Appendix A

Recommendations

7. The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

Resource Implications

8. The Council takes its responsibilities to protect the public purse seriously and is fully committed to the highest ethical standards, to ensure the proper use and protection of public funds and assets. To achieve the objectives set out within the Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26, the Council needs to maximise the financial resources available to it. To do this, the Council has an ongoing commitment to continue to improve its resilience to fraud, corruption and other forms of financial irregularity.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

9. There are no specific equality and/or equal rights implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

None.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedures

None.

Officers to Contact

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List of Appendices

Appendix A: Annual Counter Fraud Report 2025-26

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