



## Counter Fraud Plans

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<b>Cabinet Member(s) responsible:</b>	Councillor Mohammed Jamil, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance

### Executive Summary:

The Audit Committee oversees the Council's counter fraud arrangements, and it is therefore appropriate for the Committee to be updated in relation to planned works. In administering its responsibilities, the Council has a duty to prevent fraud and corruption, whether it is attempted by someone outside or within the Council such as another organisation, a resident, an employee or a Member. Furthermore, the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance (Principle F) states that we will ensure effective counter fraud arrangements are in place. The Council is committed to an effective counter fraud and corruption culture, by promoting high ethical standards and encouraging the prevention and detection of fraudulent activities, thus supporting corporate and community plans.

### Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to review and approve the Corporate Fraud Plan 2025.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to make best use of its resources for the residents and communities within Peterborough. This report sets out that approach in how it will look to deal with fraud, error and corruption.

## 2. Background and key issues

- 2.1 Local authorities have scarce resources to deliver services to the public. Every effort is needed to protect the public purse so that monies can be best utilised. The Council has in place a strategy which reflects the national “Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally” (2020).
- 2.2 The most recent data available shows that the risk of fraud across Local Government in England exceeds £2billion each year. It is essential that Peterborough City Council (PCC) has a robust framework to prevent and deter fraud, appropriate strategies and policies as well as plans to investigate and prosecute. This Counter Fraud Plan supports the current Strategy and identifies practical solutions to ensure the prevention and deterring fraud as well as investigate those matters that do arise.
- 2.3 The Plan applies to all that are associated with PCC, whether staff, Members, agency and temporary staff, volunteers, consultants, contractors and partners.
- 2.4 Fraud Plan 2025**
  - 2.4.1 The Plan, while predominantly managed by Investigations and Internal Audit Teams within Corporate Services, also establishes that officers at all levels across the Council will have responsibility for ensuring that the plan is delivered and the Council protected against acts of fraud and corruption.
  - 2.4.2 The Plan highlights specific areas of work to protect the Council against fraud and corruption. PCC also has a duty to protect the public and it does this through its work across all services. Part of this is through effective sharing of information and knowledge. The Council also has frameworks and procedures in place to prevent fraud and encourage staff and the public to report suspicions of fraud. Separate on this agenda is the recent reviewed Whistleblowing Policy.
  - 2.4.3 The Plan follows the guidelines and checklists contained in the “Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally” Strategy and progress against this will be reported to senior management and the Audit Committee.
  - 2.4.4 A break-down of proposed work included in the Plan can be found at **Appendix A** along with the lead officers / sections responsible for ensuring the plan is delivered

### 3. Corporate Priorities

- 3.1 The Corporate Fraud Plan impacts the Sustainable Future City Council element of the Corporate Priorities outlined below:

Sustainable Future City Council

- How we work
- How we serve
- How we enable

- 3.2 This Plan needs to be taken into account by the Committee in order that PCC can focus on the delivery of appropriate services which look to protect the wider public monies for other activities.

- 3.3 Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

### 4. Consultation

- 4.1 Executive Directors via CLT meeting (Agenda Item: 7 January 2025).

### 5. Financial Implications [to be completed by the report author in conjunction with budget holder for that service area]

- 5.1 The Fraud Plan 2025 is to be delivered in accordance with current agreed staffing budgets and IT software systems and set out within the sections Service Plans.

### 6. Value for money

- 6.1 The outcomes from effective delivery of the Fraud Plan 2025 should demonstrate notional as well as actual savings to the Council. This should include the withdrawal of services from those not requiring it (such as welfare funds or services).

### 7. Legal implications (to be completed by the Legal team only after all other comments)

- 7.1 Governance procedures in place, (such as the Fraud & Corruption Strategy, Contract Rules, Financial Rules and Codes of Conduct), supported by an audit and investigations programme of counter fraud awareness measures and assurance reviews will assist the Council in complying with anti-corruption law, in particular the Bribery Act, and also serves to reduce the risk of reputation damage and financial loss by litigation.

## 8. Equalities

- 8.1 There are no direct equalities impacts arising.  
[Equality Impact Assessment \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

## 9. Options considered

- 9.1 To not provide a Fraud Plan. This has been discouraged as by monitoring proactive and reactive works in relation to tackling fraud and its service delivery would promote the zero tolerance levels across PCC stakeholders that fraud is not acceptable and that the Council is keen to protect its scarce resources.

## 10. Background documents

- 10.1 Local Code of Corporate Governance.

## 11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix A: Counter Fraud Plan 2025