

Audit Committee

6 July 2015

Report title	Protecting the Public Purse – Fraud Briefing	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Finance	
Originating service	Audit	
Accountable employee(s)	Peter Farrow Tel Email	Head of Audit 01902 554460 peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Not applicable	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note and comment upon the contents of the Audit Commission's fraud briefing – Protecting the Public Purse.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To bring to Members of the Audit Committee's attention the contents of the Audit Commission's fraud briefing – Protecting the Public Purse.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Protecting the Public Purse was an annual publication from the Audit Commission which was strongly supported by Central Government. It described year-on-year changes in cases and values of detected fraud, based on the Commission's annual survey of local government bodies. It also describes trends and draws on the learning from the Commission's significant experience in counter-fraud in local government. Its aim was to inform the development of effective counter-fraud in local government, and was designed for those responsible for governance in local government, particularly councillors.

To accompany the publication, the Audit Commission has provided the council with a bespoke fraud briefing. This brings together key facts about Protecting the Public Purse, and provides details of detected fraud cases and the value of such fraud for the council in comparison to other metropolitan borough council's. This demonstrates that the council has performed well in detecting fraud, although there are still some areas of potential fraud including blue badge, insurance and social care fraud which the council will target in the year ahead.

Following the final abolition of the Audit Commission it is our understand that The European Institute for Combatting Corruption and Fraud will be taking the lead on the annual Protecting the Public Purse exercise in the future.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion

- 3.1 The activities undertaken by the council in tackling fraud will continue to be reported back to the Audit Committee through regular Counter Fraud Update reports.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report (GE/17062015/Z).

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report. (RB/29062015/J).

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendation in this report

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Audit Commission Fraud Briefing – ‘Protecting the Public Purse’