

Protecting the Public Purse

Fraud Briefing 2014

Wolverhampton City Council



Purpose of Fraud Briefing



Provide an information source to support councillors in considering their council's fraud detection activities



Extend an opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities



Give focus to discussing local and national fraud risks, reflect on local priorities and the proportionate responses needed



Be a catalyst for reviewing the council's current strategy, resources and capability for tackling fraud

Understanding the bar charts

Outcomes for the first measure for your council are highlighted in yellow in the bar charts. The results of your comparator authorities are shown in the green bars.



Outcomes for the second measure for your council are highlighted as a green symbols above each bar. The results of your comparator authorities are shown in the white triangles.



A ‘*’ symbol has been used on the horizontal axis to indicate your council.

All data are drawn from council submissions on the Audit Commission’s annual fraud and corruption survey for the financial year 2013/14.

In some cases, council report they have detected fraud and do not report the number of cases and/or the value. For the purposes of this fraud briefing these ‘Not Recorded’ records are shown as Nil.

Interpreting fraud detection results



Contextual and comparative information needed to interpret results



Detected fraud is indicative, not definitive, of counter fraud performance (*Prevention and deterrence should not be overlooked*)



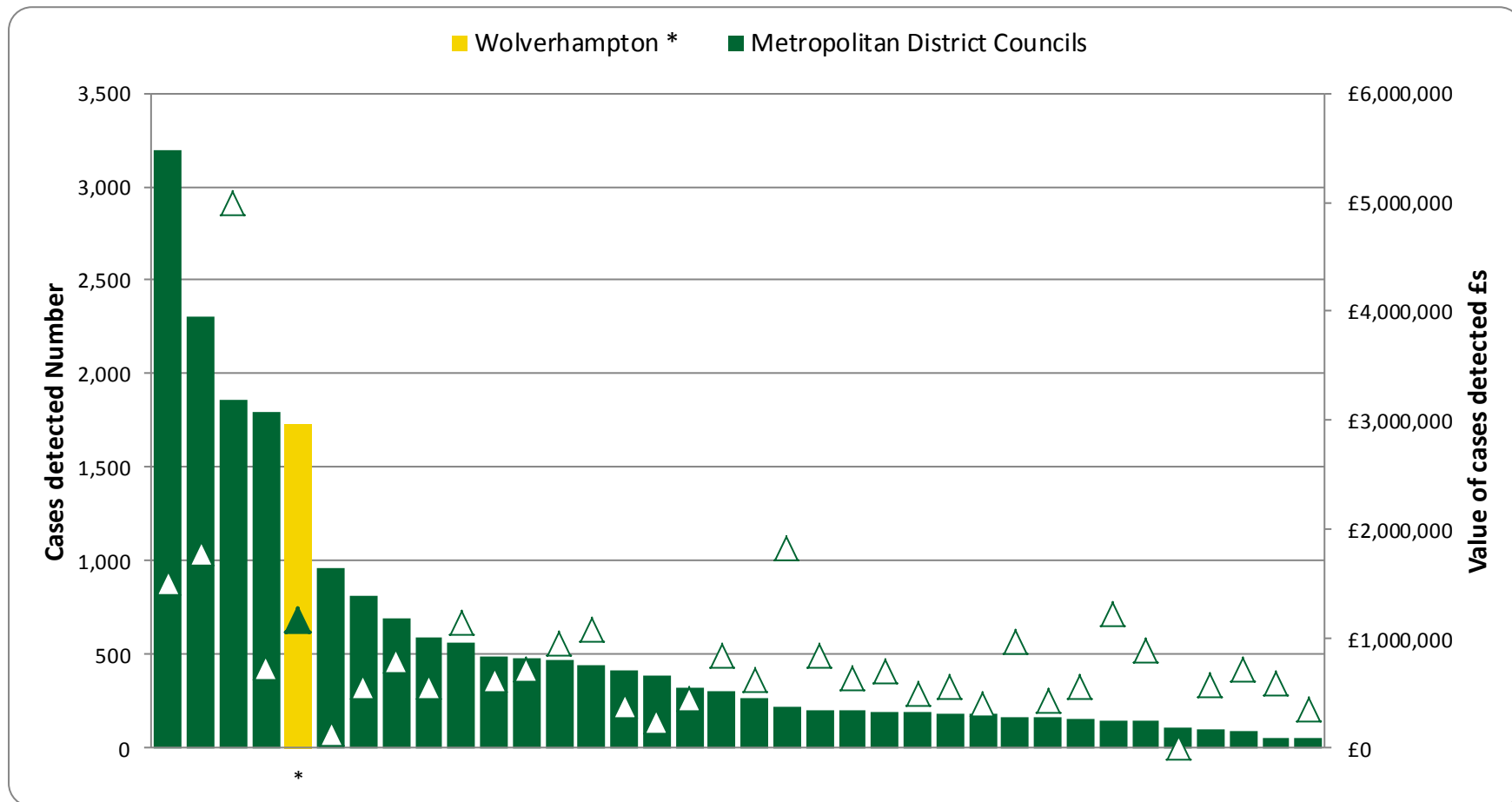
No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed (*Fraud will always be attempted and even with the best prevention measures some will succeed*)



Councils who look for fraud, and look in the right way, will find fraud (*There is no such thing as a small fraud, just a fraud that has been detected early*)

Total detected cases and value 2013/14 (Excludes Housing tenancy fraud)

Wolverhampton



Wolverhampton detected 1726 cases of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £1,164,525 #.

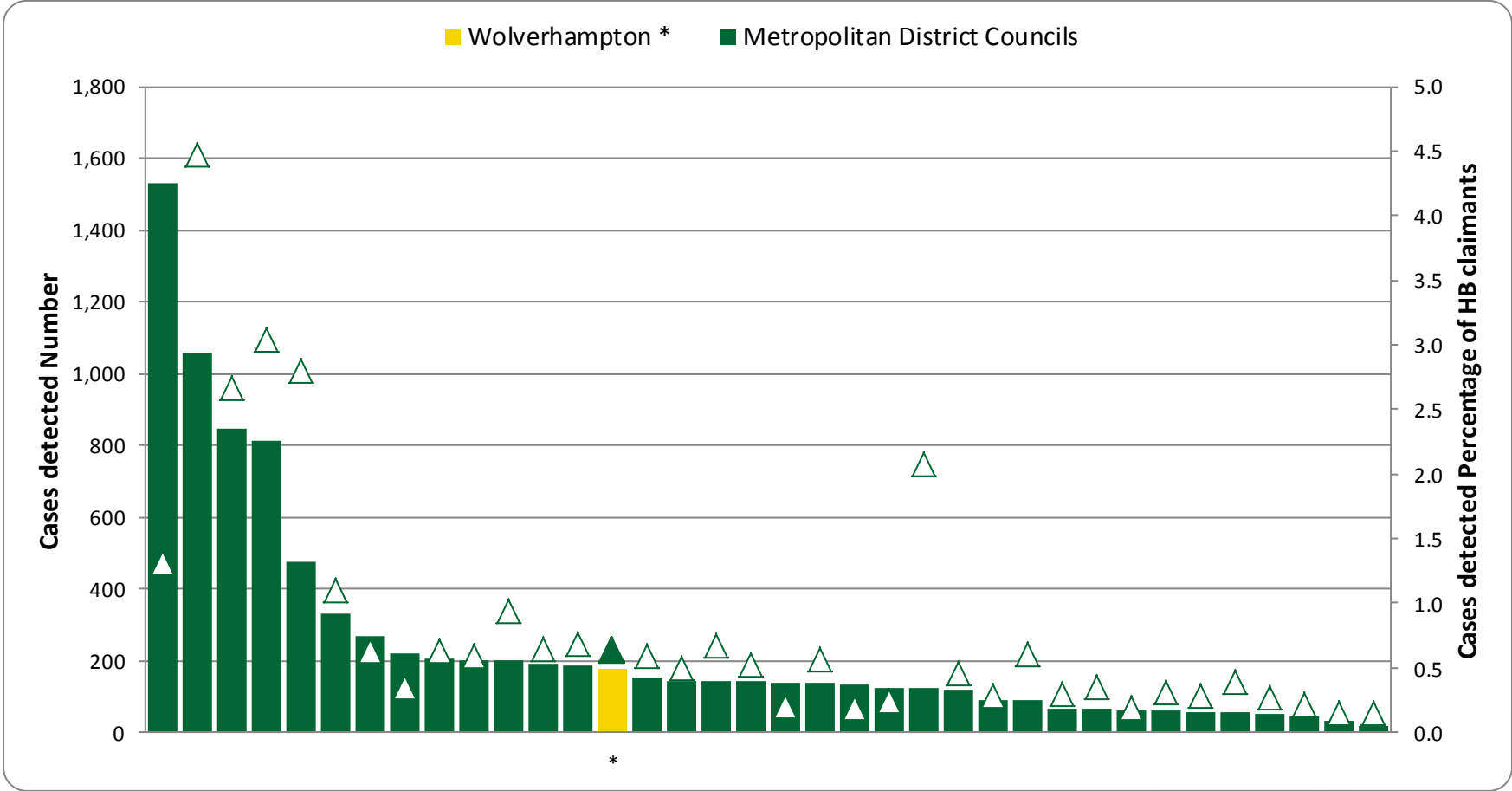
Average for other Metropolitan District Councils: 539 cases, valued at £853,072



Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) 2013/14

Total detected cases, and as a proportion of housing benefit caseload

Wolverhampton



Wolverhampton detected 177 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £586,180.

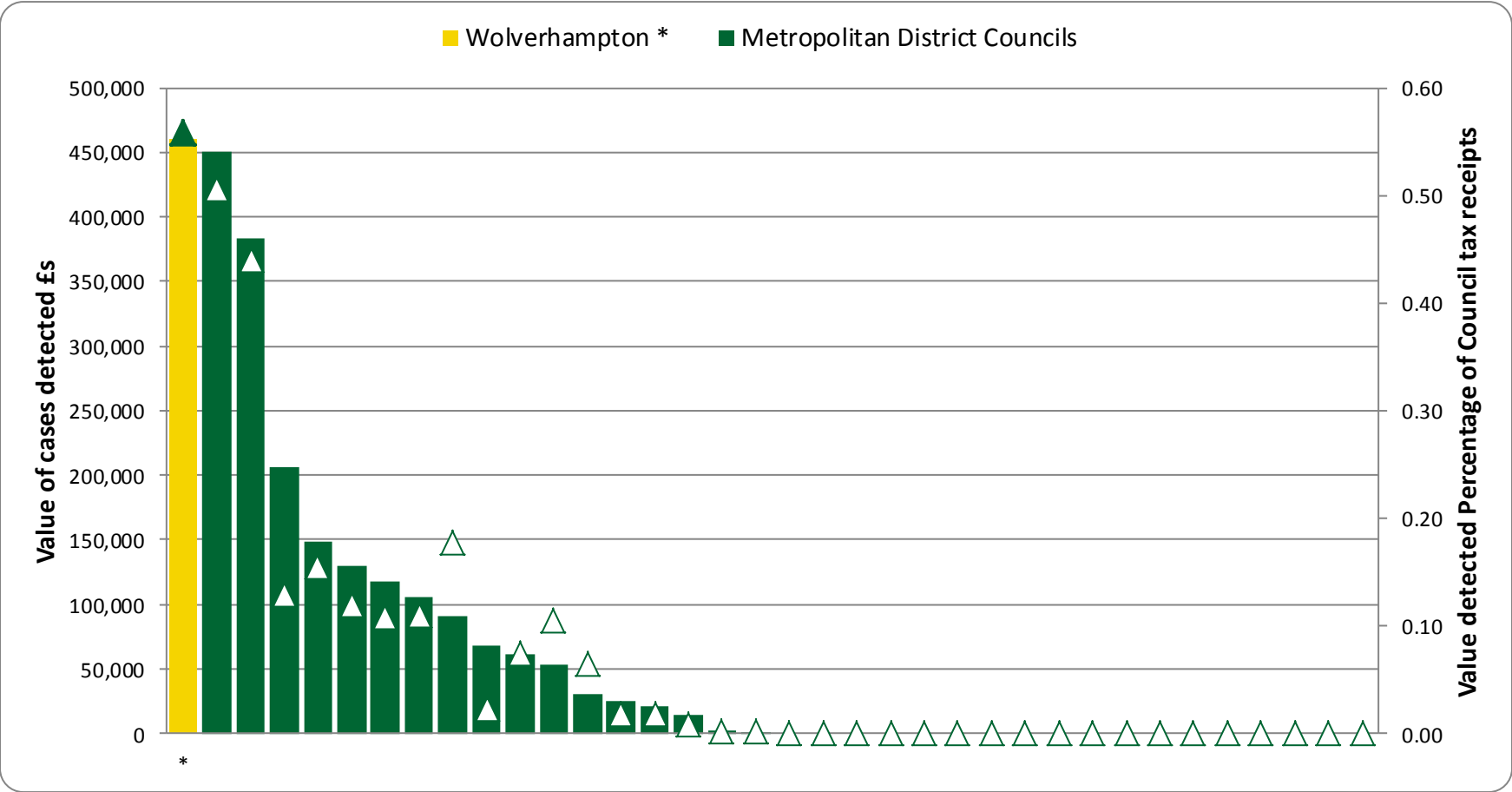
Average for other Metropolitan District Councils: 245 cases, valued at £725,000



Council tax discount fraud 2013/14

Total detected value, and value as a proportion of council tax income

Wolverhampton



Wolverhampton detected 1507 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £459,365.

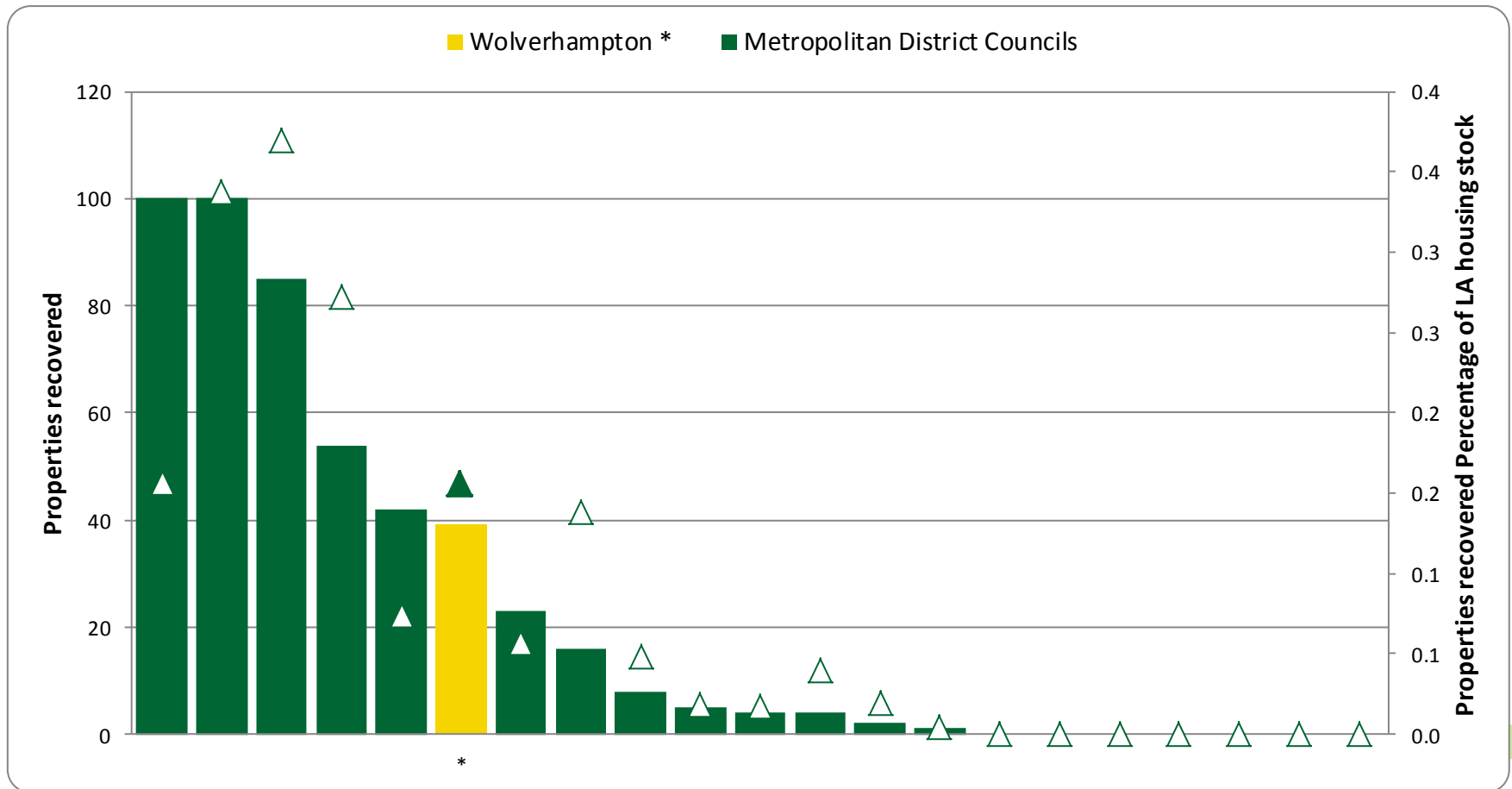
Average for other Metropolitan District Councils: 252 cases, valued at £54,507



Social Housing fraud (only councils with housing stock) 2013/14

Total properties recovered, and as a proportion of housing stock

Wolverhampton



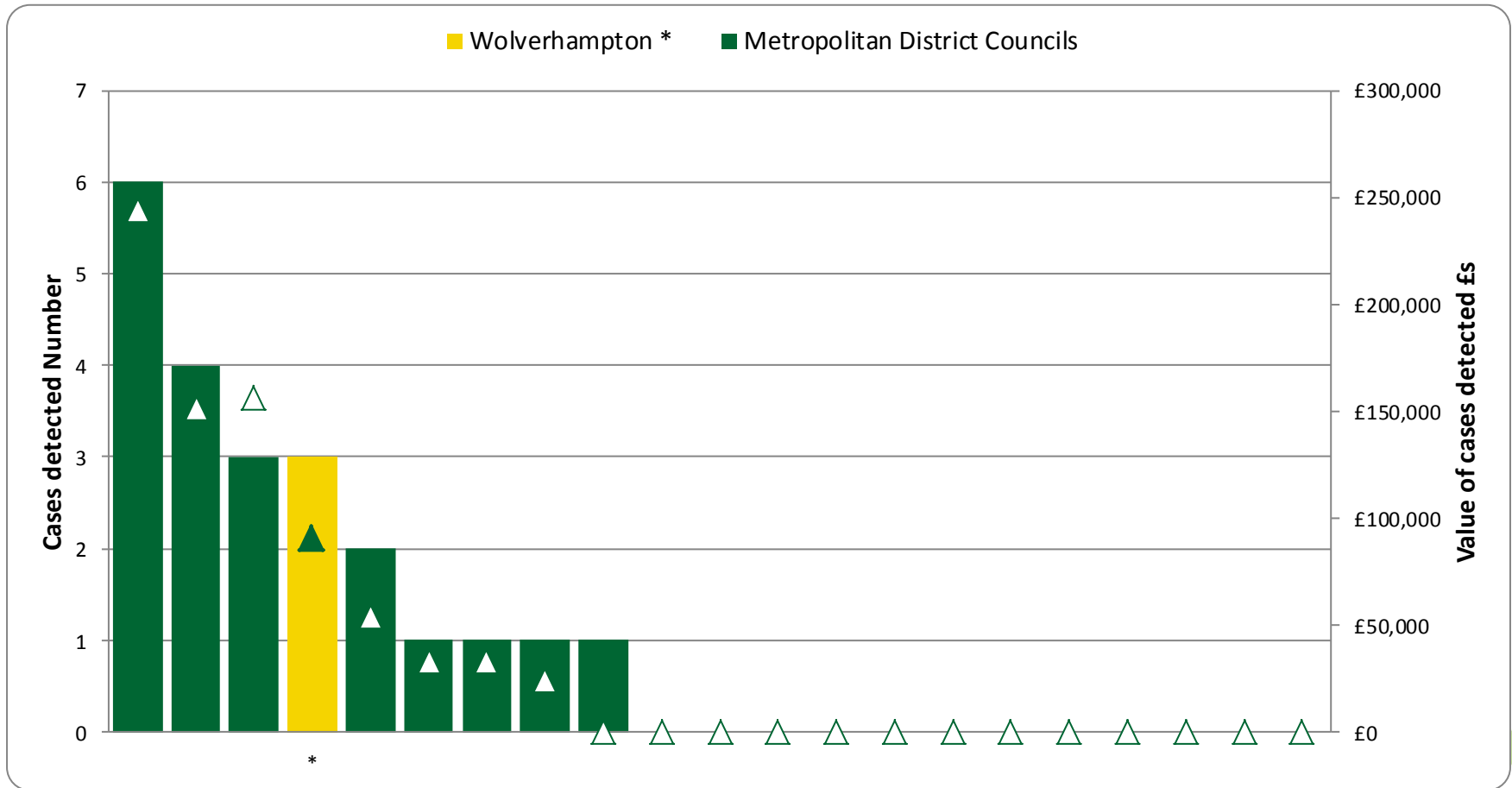
Wolverhampton recovered 39 properties.
 Average for other Metropolitan District Councils with housing stock: 22 cases



Right to buy fraud (only councils with housing stock) 2013/14

Right to buy cases and value

Wolverhampton

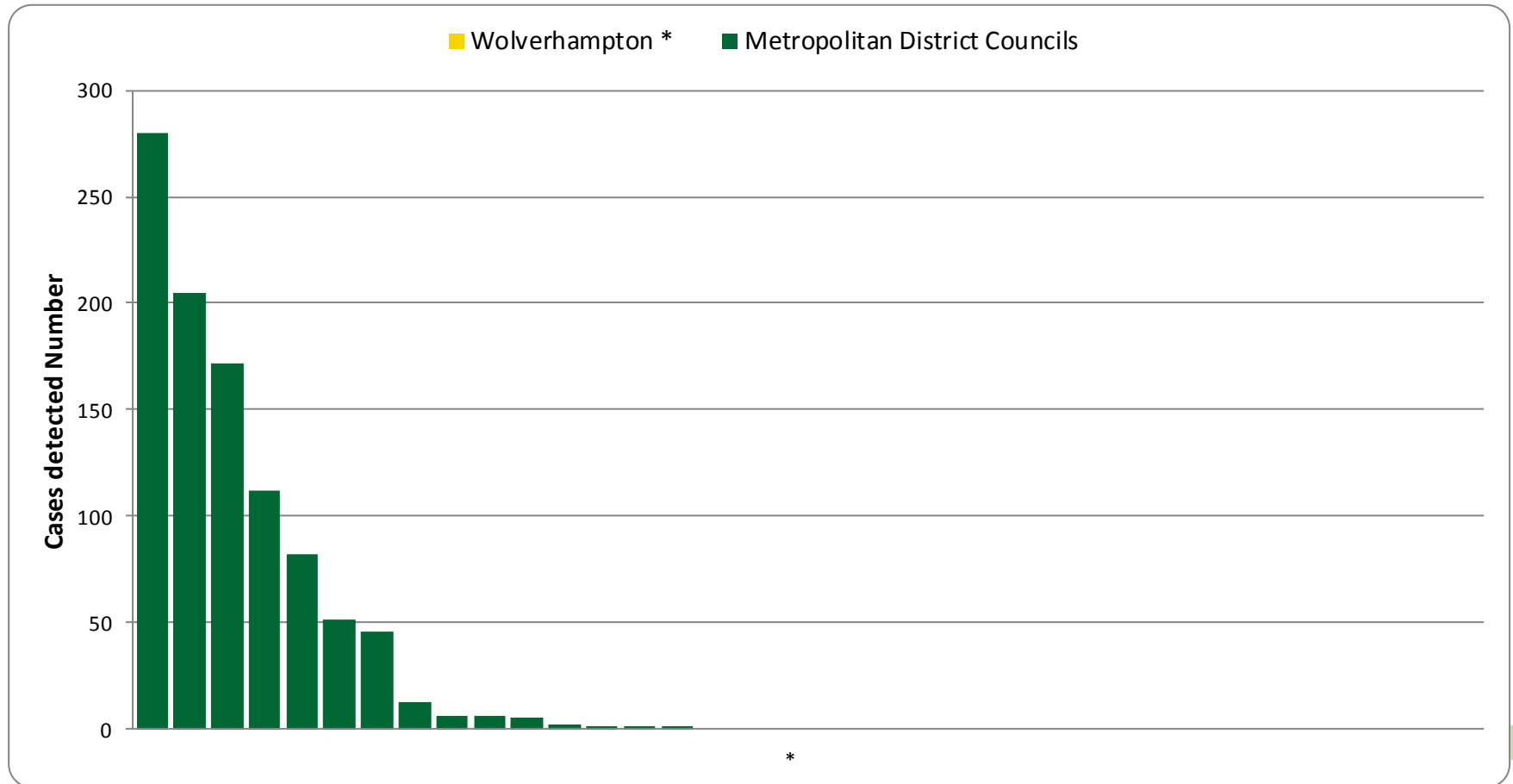


Wolverhampton detected 3 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £90,000.

Average for other Metropolitan District Councils with housing stock: 1.0 case, valued at £99,541

Disabled parking (Blue Badge) fraud 2013/14

Wolverhampton



Wolverhampton did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.
Average for other Metropolitan District Councils: 28 cases

Other frauds 2013/14 Wolverhampton

Procurement: Wolverhampton detected 1 case of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £10,160.

Total for other Metropolitan District Councils: 6 cases, valued at £610,380

Insurance: Wolverhampton did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.

Total for other Metropolitan District Councils: 94 cases, valued at £1,248,884

Social care: Wolverhampton did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.

Total for other Metropolitan District Councils: 61 cases, valued at £490,078

Internal: Wolverhampton detected 9 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £36,897.

Total for other Metropolitan District Councils: 326 cases, valued at £622,469

Correctly recording fraud levels is a central element in assessing fraud risk.

It is best practice to record the financial value of each detected case

Questions elected members and decision makers may wish to ask

Post SFIS

Local priorities

Partnerships

Using information and data

Are our remaining counter-fraud resources and skill sets adequate after our benefit fraud investigators have left to join SFIS?

Are local priorities reflected in our approach to countering fraud?

Have we considered counter-fraud partnership working?

Are we satisfied that we will have access to comparative information and data to inform our counter-fraud decision making in the future?

Any questions?

