

## Counter Fraud Annual Operational Plan 2023/2024 Appendix 4

<b>Counter Fraud Activity</b>	<b>Planned Work</b>	<b>Comments</b>
New Homes Bonus/ Empty Properties	A yearly pro-active to maximise the grant received from Central Government by identifying empty properties that are now occupied. The net number of properties brought back into occupation attracts a grant from Central Government.	June/July 2023
Right to Buy (RTB) Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Checks	The Corporate Fraud Team (CFT) ensure that all Right to Buy applications are verified confirming residency eligibility and the funds used in the purchase abide by money laundering regulations	<i>RTB Process</i> <b>Appendix 5</b>
Blue Badge Pro Actives	Undertake in co-operation with The Parking Enforcement teams at least 2 Blue Badge pro-actives during the year to confirm and lawful use of badges. A visual presence to provide assurance to residents that SBC takes this Fraud seriously and to deter misuse across the Borough.	<i>27<sup>th</sup> April 2023</i>
Council Tax Reduction & Single Person Discount	Investigate potential Council Tax Reduction Benefit and Single Person Discount Fraud.	Referrals received via residents use of Online Fraud Referral form or via the Telephone Fraud Hotline
Employee Fraud	The importance of preventing detecting and stopping “insider fraud” can reverse the negative impact this may have on the culture of an organisation. Staff morale recruitment and staff retention may be significantly impacted.	CFT have been included in the format of a new Staff Declaration of Interest Template
Adult Social Care –Direct Payments – Social Care Assessments	Cases of funds not being used appropriately and /or misrepresentation of circumstances to access funding towards care costs. Forum arranged for June to include all areas of Adult Social Care to ensure that policies are in place to ensure prevention and detection of Fraud in this area.	2 ongoing cases with CFT (First referrals received )
Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA)	Stopping fraud and corruption from happening in the first place must be our aim. However, those who keep on trying may still succeed. A robust enforcement response is therefore needed to pursue fraudsters and recovering fraud losses provides the community with the assurances that fraud will not be tolerated by this authority.	POCA results <b>Appendix 3</b>

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	Furthermore through the use of strong punishments such as criminal prosecution and proceeds of crime, this action also contributes towards the Council's overall fraud resilience and deters potential fraudsters	
National Fraud Initiative Bi-Annual Exercise.	Continuous work on the statutory data matches from the Cabinet Offices, which will be investigated throughout the year The matches provide a significant contribution to saving areas including Subsidised Travel Passes, Blue Badges, Housing and Revenues.	Housing Tenants to DWP Deceased List Deceased Blue Badge /Concessionary Travel Passes Payroll to Payroll for example
London Borough Fraud Investigators Group (LBFIG)	As part of this group we are able share with London based Local Authorities their outcomes and discuss areas of Fraud and error that might occur in our Borough.	
Housing Tenancy/ Verifications	The CFT will continue to investigate illegal sub-letting and non-occupation of Council properties as referred by colleagues and residents. This also includes false applications for housing assignment and succession	
Fraud Awareness & Engagement	As part of the CFT commitment to strengthening the counter fraud culture within the Council the team will continue to carry out Fraud Awareness sessions to colleagues throughout the organisation. The purpose of the sessions is to raise awareness and discuss the different types of potential fraud that could occur within their service areas.	