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# **Counter Fraud Annual Report 2025/26**

Governance & Audit Committee

Decision to be taken by: N/A

Date of meeting: 13 July 2026

Lead director/officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Daniel Clubb, Assistant Director – Corporate Fraud (Veritau)
- Author contact details: [daniel.clubb@veritau.co.uk](mailto:daniel.clubb@veritau.co.uk)
- Report version number: 1.0

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report notes the transfer of service to Veritau during the year and provides details of counter fraud activity undertaken since this transfer.

### 2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 The Governance & Audit Committee is recommended to:
- 2.1.1 Note the counter fraud activity completed during 2025/26.

### 3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 The Director of Finance receives regular updates on counter fraud work during the year.
- 3.2 The counter fraud team works directly with a number of Council services to deliver fraud awareness messaging, investigate fraud concerns, and to provide advice to Council officers.

### 4. Background and options with supporting evidence

- 4.1 The risk of fraud is constantly evolving. The counter fraud service helps mitigate fraud risk, investigate suspicions, and to take appropriate action when it is detected.
- 4.2 Leicester City Council transferred its counter fraud service to Veritau in October 2025. The Counter Fraud Annual Report at appendix 1 highlights this change and focuses on the counter fraud activities undertaken since the transfer. It also notes that how counter fraud work and its impact is measured will be reviewed for future updates to the Committee.
- 4.3 The report describes the range of support the counter fraud function provides to the Council and details levels of concerns reported.
- 4.4 An update on activity undertaken as part of the National Fraud Initiative is also included.

## 5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

### 5.1 Financial implications

Fraud can cause the Council significant loss; hence activity to prevent and detect fraud is a clear financial investment and a key component of good financial control and governance.

Signed: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

Dated: 30 June 2026

### 5.2 Legal implications

Fraud is a criminal offence and therefore represents breach of the law. Other forms of financial irregularity, though not criminal, may be in breach of regulation. The conduct of counter-fraud work of all kinds is bound by law and regulation and the Council is careful to ensure that its activities in this area are properly discharged.

Signed: Kamal Adatia, City Barrister & Head of Standards

Dated: 30 June 2026

### 5.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

This report provides an annual assurance opinion on the council's governance, risk management and control framework and does not introduce changes to policy or service delivery. There are no direct equality implications arising. Effective internal audit arrangements support compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty by helping ensure that systems and processes operate fairly and lawfully.

Signed: Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer

Dated: 26 June 2026

### 5.4 Climate Emergency implications

This report does not contain any significant climate emergency implications.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246

Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### 5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None.

**6. Background information and other papers:**

None

**7. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Counter Fraud Annual Report 2025/26

**8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

**9. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

No