

# Crawley Borough Council



## Report to Audit Committee 26 July 2016

### Fraud Team Report

Report of the Fraud & Inspections Manager - Report no. FIN/389

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#### 1. Purpose

The report describes the activity of the Corporate Fraud & Inspection Team in the period from 18 February 2016 to 7 July 2016. All outcome figures are taken from closed cases.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee note the report.

#### 3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee has a responsibility to oversee the Council's anti fraud and corruption arrangements. A major part of those arrangements is the activity of the Fraud Team in identifying, investigating and taking action against cases of fraud.

#### 4. Information & Analysis

##### Active Caseload

The investigation team are currently investigating the following case types

<u>Case Type</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Legacy Benefit Case (Awaiting result)	2
Council Tax Liability Investigation	4
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	3
Housing Succession	1
Housing Applications	9
Housing Investigations (General)	27
Housing non occupation	15
Housing Right to Buy	11
NDR Liability Investigation	6
CT Single person Discount	10
Taxi	1
Licencing	1
Total	90

The above cases are all at various stages in the investigation lifecycle and will be reported on when the cases are closed.

#### 4.1 Housing Fraud

During the reporting period the team have achieved the following:

	<u>In period</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
Properties recovered	9	17
Prevented allocation	3	23
Stopped Right to Buy	1 (£77,900)	0
Notional value of savings	£293,000	£720,000

#### 4.2 Single Person Discount (Council Tax)

As well as running data matching exercises, throughout the year the team is responding to allegations of fraudulent Single Person Discount applications. This is where an occupier is stating the house is occupied by 1 adult when this is not the case.

	<u>In period</u>	<u>2015/16</u>
Discounts removed	12	62
Loss being recovered	£4,491	£39,081

#### 4.3 Council Tax and Business Rates

The team continue to investigate and inspect Council Tax and Business rates.

**New billable CT or Rates** – Inspectors are constantly looking for properties or businesses that are not on the valuation list and therefore not being billed. Legislation does not require occupiers to report new properties.

	Council Tax		Non Domestic Rates	
	In period	2015/16	In period	2015/16
New billable CT or Rates	£215,092	£622,123	£150,090	£3,503,203

## 5 **Implications**

There are no implications from the report.

## 6 **Background Papers**

6.1 None

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ENDS