

Crawley Borough Council



Report to Audit Committee 28 September 2016

Fraud Team Report

Report of the Fraud & Inspections Manager - Report no. FIN/391

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report describes the activity of the Corporate Fraud & Inspection Team in the period from 8 July 2016 to 22 August 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)	1
Council Tax Liability Investigation	3
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	6
Housing Succession	1
Housing Applications	6
Housing Investigations (General)	18
Housing non occupation	15
Housing Right to Buy	12
NDR Liability Investigation	5
CT Single person Discount	7
Taxi	2
Enforcement order breach	1
Total	77

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>16/17 YTD</u>
Properties recovered	2	9
Prevented allocation	1	2
Stopped Right to Buy	1 (£77,900)	2 (£155,800)
Notional value of savings	£131,900	£353,800

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>16/17 YTD</u>
Discounts removed	9	15
Loss being recovered	£4,807	£5,625

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	16/17 YTD	In period	16/17 YTD
New billable CT or Rates	£111,201	£317,578	£40,000	£111,000

5 Implications

5.1 There are no implications from the report.

6 Background Papers

6.1 None

Report author and contact officer: Chris Corker, Operational Benefits & Corporate Fraud Manager (telephone 01293 438598)

ENDS