

Protecting the Public Purse 2013		Agenda No: 9
Corporate Priority: An organisation that delivers value Report presented by: Lesley Day, Audit, Insurance & Risk Manager Report prepared by: Lesley Day, Audit, Insurance & Risk Manager		
Background Papers: Protecting the Public Purse 2013 published by the Audit Commission in November 2013		Public Report; Yes
Options: N/a		Key Decision: NO
Executive Summary: <p>The Audit Commission's recent publication – 'Protecting the Public Purse 2013' (which is available at: http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Protecting-the-public-purse-2013-Fighting-fraud-against-local-government.pdf) is the latest report in the series on the extent of fraud against local government and is aimed at those responsible for governance in local government.</p> <p>The report (paragraphs 141 – 144) refers to the Audit Commission making available individually tailored fraud briefings to support the external auditors' communication with those responsible for governance. A copy of the briefing for this Council is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>On pages 6 and 7, the report gives recommendations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the Audit Commission's checklist for councillors (page 48) and others responsible for governance to review their counter-fraud arrangements • actively pursue frauds identified through participation in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) <p>The other recommendations listed are covered in Appendices 2 and 3.</p> <p>Attached as Appendix 2 is a completed 'Fighting Fraud Checklist for Governance' for Members consideration and to note the current counter-fraud arrangements. The Council ensures that all NFI data matches are investigated, whether categorised as a high, medium or low match, and outcomes are reported to the Governance Committee.</p> <p>On page 54 there are "Questions for councillors to support 2013 individual fraud briefings". These questions are attached as Appendix 3 together with proposed responses against each question for Members to consider.</p>		

Decision

1. To acknowledge the Audit Commission's Protecting the Public Purse 2013 and the Audit Commission's Fraud Briefing
2. To note the completed 'Fighting Fraud Checklist for Governance' and the current counter-fraud arrangements
3. To consider "Questions for Councillors to support 2013 individual fraud briefings"

Purpose of Decision:

To ensure Members are aware of the current and ongoing fraud risks and the counter fraud arrangements that are in place.

Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail

Financial:	N/a
Legal:	N/a
Safeguarding	N/a
Equalities/Diversity	N/a
Customer Impact:	N/a
Environment and Climate Change:	N/a
Consultation/Community Engagement:	N/a
Risks:	The absence of adequate counter-fraud actions could put the Authority at risk from fraud
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