

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

DATE: 11th October 2017

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

CORPORATE FRAUD – QUARTER 2 2017/18 UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report updates the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee on the counter fraud activity of the Council for Quarter 2 2017/18.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the activity and outcomes of the Corporate Fraud Team are noted

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The governance of the Council underpins the delivery of all of the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The work of Corporate Fraud also reflects the priorities of the Five Year Plan as follows:

- *Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.*
- *Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.*
- *Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.*
- *Our residents will have access to good quality homes.*
- *Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents*

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications contained in this report

(b) Risk Management

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Risk/Threat/Opportunity</i>	<i>Mitigation(s)</i>
<i>That the activity and outcomes of the Corporate Fraud Team are noted</i>	This report addresses the issue of fraud	

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights issues contained in this report

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no need for the completion of an Equalities Impact Assessment

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 In this quarter The Corporate Fraud Team (CFT) have dealt with 261 enquiries to date from arrange of sources including:

- Police Authorities
- The Council's Legal Section (in relation to Right to Buys)
- Department for Work & Pensions
- referrals from the general public

This is an increase of 44% on the previous quarter

5.2 The increase is in part due to the appointment of our Intelligence Officer who is on hand to speak to people rather than to the automated response previously in place.

5.3 This quarter the Corporate Fraud Team have submitted four prosecutions

One is currently with the Crown Prosecution Service for Housing and Benefit offences. -Person removed from temporary housing and removed from housing register awaiting summons.

Two cases for Housing and Right to Buy (RTB) offences are with HB Public Law (HBPL) and have been allocated Solicitors. -The RTB's are currently suspended and we await charges under The Fraud Act 2006 and or Housing Act which if successful will see the return of property to SBC stock and no payment of £77,800 RTB discount.

The last case is the first prosecution of offences in relation to Council Tax Support and has also been allocated a Solicitor at HBPL.

5.4 The Council's Financial Investigator has six Financial Investigations open.

5.5 3 administrative penalties in relation to Council Tax Support fraud with the financial penalty amount paid in full totalling £824.15 have been collected.

5.6 Confiscation and Compensation payments totalling 6090.73 received.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

There are no comments from other Committees

7. **Conclusion**

Members are requested to note details of the report.

8. **Background Papers**

None