

Report to: Audit and Governance Committee – 31 July 2024

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<b>Report Summary</b>	
<b>Report Title</b>	Fraud Risk Assessment
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To inform Members of the update of the Fraud Risk Register undertaken during April 2024.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Members note the content of the report.
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To promote a strong counter-fraud culture, it is important that Members are aware of the Council’s fraud risks and the controls in place to mitigate them.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 A fraud risk assessment was first undertaken in June 2014 and a fraud risk register produced and presented to the Audit and Accounts Committee.
- 1.2 The fraud risks are assessed annually and the register updated. The amended Fraud Risk Register as at April 2024 is attached at Appendix A.

## **2.0 Work Undertaken**

- 2.1 All of the existing risks have had a review by the Business Manager – Financial Services, and the risk owner. These were all considered as to whether there are new fraud types within the risk and whether the controls reflected the current environment.
- 2.2 The risk scores were then reviewed to determine whether the impact or likelihood of any of the frauds occurring has changed since the last review.

2.3 The final part of the exercise was to consider whether any further actions were appropriate which would lead to further controls being in place. Where actions were identified, these are measurable and were given a timeframe for completion, which would therefore seek to reduce either the likelihood or impact of the potential fraud. This review was set in the context of proportionality to ensure that proportionate resources are deployed to ensure the prevention and detection of any fraud.

### **3.0 Results**

3.1 There are 22 areas of the Council that are deemed to have a fraud risk. The type of risk is dependent on the service. Based on the existing controls, of those risks, six are currently considered to be medium risk (amber) and sixteen are low risk (green).

3.2 During the assessment process, it was felt that none of the risk scores needed to change from the assessment carried out during April 2023.

3.3 Further actions have been identified, some which are specific to the risk itself, whereas there are some actions which are holistic and overarch a number of the fraud risks. The details of all of the actions together with completion by dates are included within the appendix.

3.4 nineteen of the risks have achieved their target score. For the three that are still above the target score, there are actions in place to mitigate further.

3.5 The Fraud Risk Register will be updated and reported to the Committee annually. The risks, controls, current risk scores and target scores, and further actions, will be added to the Pentana system to ensure regular monitoring is undertaken. Progress on implementing further actions will be reported in the bi-annual Counter-Fraud activity report to the Committee.

### **4.0 Equalities Implications**

None.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.