

Corporate Fraud Plan 2023/24

1. Corporate Fraud Service Priorities

Fraud is a significant threat to any organisation. It costs its victims sometimes substantial sums of money and diverts resources away from those who need them.

The Councils corporate fraud activity in the coming year is aligned with the pillars sets out in the CIPFA guidance: 'Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally 2020 – A Strategy for the 2020's':



East Suffolk Council has a zero-tolerance approach to fraud, and the Corporate Fraud service is the lead team for advising the organisation on how to identify and manage fraud risk. The Corporate Fraud service is also responsible for investigation any potential attempts to defraud the Council.

This Corporate Fraud Plan sets out the priorities and aims of the Corporate Fraud service in 2023/24, and how the service intends to support the aims of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.



£2,163,007
The financial benefit of the Corporate Fraud service in 2021/22

The Corporate Fraud service has a number of activities planned in the coming year.



The Corporate Fraud Service receives allegations via members of the public, internal staff, contractors, or partnership colleagues etc. These are considered for investigated or referred to other Law Enforcement Agencies within the lawful basis.

Some fraud risk areas to cover under pro-active- or re-active exercises:

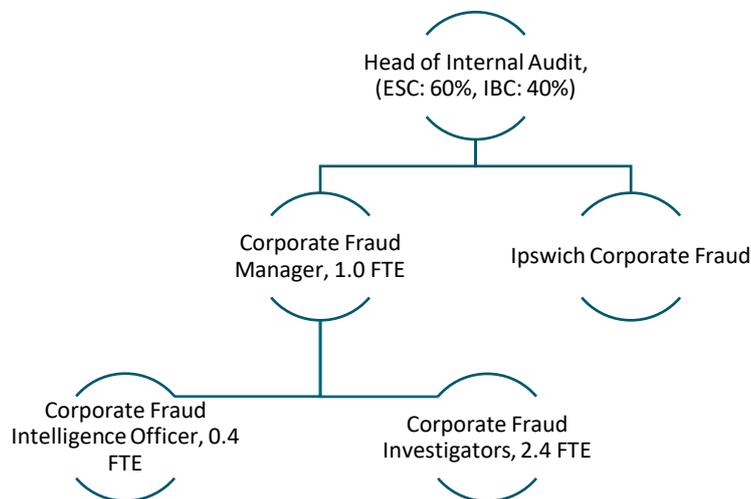


In undertaking fraud investigations, the Council’s skilled and experienced fraud investigators rely on the following legislation and related procedures (not an exhaustive list):

- Fraud Act 2006
- Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2006
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984
- Criminal Procedures and Investigation Act (CPIA) 1996
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Proceeds of Crime Act 2000
- Data Protection Act 2018

2. Resources

The Corporate Fraud service reports to the Head of Internal Audit and forms part of the Audit Services Partnership with Ipswich Borough Council.



The Corporate Fraud service in partnership with Ipswich Borough Council have skills that can be utilised in respect of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and the Money Laundering Regulations 2017. The Head of Internal Audit is also authorised by the National Crime Agency as a Senior Authorised Officer.

Partnership arrangements provide an opportunity to share training, knowledge, and expertise, with a full time Financial Investigator available at Ipswich Borough Council.

Fighting fraud and corruption is a not a one-off cost, it requires ongoing investment which flexes with the scale of risk and threat that all Councils face.

3. Measuring Results

An annual report of outcomes from the previous financial year 2022/23 is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in a separate report usually in July each year.

Outputs are monitored on a monthly basis within the service by the Corporate Fraud Manager and reported to the Head of Internal Audit.

The Council reports upon the use of covert investigation powers to the Surveillance Commissioner. During 2022/23 to date the Council has not used the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.