



**AGENDA NO: 11**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 JULY 2020**

### **FRAUD AND CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS**

#### **REPORT BY KAREN JAMES**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

*The purpose of this report is to present to members of the Audit Committee the number of fraud and investigations that have commenced and been finalised for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020.*

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 CIPFA guidance requires the Audit Committee to ‘monitor the effectiveness of the control environment, including arrangements for ensuring value for money, supporting standards and ethics and for managing the authority’s exposure to the risks of fraud and corruption.’
- 1.2 The term of reference of the audit committee give specific responsibility to review the arrangements for the assessment of fraud risk and potential harm arising from fraud and corruption and to monitor the effectiveness of the counter-fraud strategy.

#### **2. FRAUD AND CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS**

- 2.1 A summary of investigations for the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 are attached in Appendix A.
- 2.2 We have sought to develop the reporting for this area. Table one shows new cases reported to Professional Standards and Counter Corruption Unit that are currently being investigated. Table two shows the number of cases, which have been concluded in the period.
- 2.3 In addition to the work of Professional Standards and the Counter Corruption Unit. We have been notified of a fraud relating to the Century Link telephone conferencing accounts, which relates to Dorset Police only. The account had been accessed by non-authorized subscribers resulting in costs being charged against our accounts fraudulently. Fraudsters were able to dial out from our accounts and make various international calls.

Not Protectively Marked

FOIA– Open

The fraudulent activity covered a period of November 2019 to February 2020. Resulting in a total fraud of £3600. All Century Link accounts have been frozen and will cease to be used as a new telephone conferencing system is now in place. Action Fraud have been notified and a case reported.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the report.

Karen James  
Head of Audit, Insurance and Strategic Risk Management