

# **Audit, Governance and Standards Committee**

Monday 6 February 2023

6.30 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G01A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1  
2QH

## **Supplemental Agenda No. 2**

### List of Contents

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
8.	Progress report on the work of internal audit and anti-fraud	1 - 2

### **Contact**

Virginia Wynn-Jones on 020 7525 7055 or email: [virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk)  
Webpage: [www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk)

Date: 31 January 2023

The figures represent investigations from 1 April 2022 to 31 December 2022.

2022-23	Corporate Anti-Fraud		Housing Waiting List		Right to Buy		COVID-19 Referrals	
	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
C/f	<b>12</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>27</b>	
April	<b>4</b>	4	<b>5</b>	4	<b>5</b>	5	<b>0</b>	0
May	<b>11</b>	10	<b>7</b>	3	<b>4</b>	4	<b>0</b>	0
June	<b>4</b>	2	<b>2</b>	5	<b>2</b>	2	<b>0</b>	0
July	<b>9</b>	8	<b>9</b>	3	<b>0</b>	0	<b>0</b>	2
August	<b>17</b>	14	<b>9</b>	11	<b>5</b>	2	<b>0</b>	19
September	<b>10</b>	9	<b>2</b>	5	<b>3</b>	5	<b>0</b>	4
October	<b>13</b>	7	<b>9</b>	6	<b>9</b>	2	<b>0</b>	0
November	<b>13</b>	21	<b>8</b>	5	<b>6</b>	9		
December	<b>8</b>	6	<b>11</b>	11	<b>3</b>	3		
Total	<b>101</b>	81	<b>62</b>	53	<b>37</b>	32	<b>27</b>	25

### Corporate Anti-Fraud investigations

There are currently 37 active Corporate Anti-fraud Team investigations. These can briefly be summarised as follows:

Chief Executives Office	2 cases
Children & Adult Services	6 Cases
Environment & Leisure	1 Case
Housing & modernisation	3 Cases
Finance & Governance	7 Cases
Blue Badge	18 Cases

(CAFT are supporting these cases as part of an Environment & Leisure Initiative)

### Fraud and Verification

Corporate Anti-Fraud Team conducts reviews of housing waiting list and Homelessness applications which have an identified cause for concern. A test of the veracity of the application enables housing management to make an informed decision on the applicant's eligibility to remain on the housing register.

Between 1st April and 31st December 2022 FVT received 63 referrals, 22 have been recommended to be maintained. 17 have been denied, 7 have been transferred out for review by another team and 9 have no further action. 4 have been withdrawn by the applicant.

**Right to Buy**

The council introduced forms to check the veracity of the sources of funds used for the purchase of properties under the right to buy scheme. Referrals are raised when the cash element of the purchase exceeds HMRC guidelines. For the referrals we review the source of cash funding and make a recommendation to the RTB team.

Between 1st April and 31st December 2022 there have been 36 referrals. 33 have been approved, 1 withdrawn. 2 have been denied, remaining cases are currently being reviewed. National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

The NFI data matches will be released on the 27th January 2023.

**Staff & Recruitment**

Due to long term sickness abstraction the team is significantly from January to April 2023. A secondment of Counter Fraud trained staff is expected to provide critical staff cover to maintain team capability

**Other business**

Colleagues from various departments are receiving short training sessions in the use of ID scanners and the use of credit reference material.

The Fraud & Verification Officer delivered a presentation to over 100 attendees from other councils and public sector landlords on Southwark's proactive Right to Buy – Anti Money Laundering methodology. The presentation was well received and has been followed up with requests for assistance.

Further training sessions will be provided going forwards.

**COMMITTEE: AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (OPEN AGENDA)**

**NOTE:** Original held in Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Team on 020 7525 7055 or [virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk)

**COPIES****COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)	1
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-chair)	By email
Councillor Gavin Edwards	By email
Councillor Sarah King	By email
Councillor Andy Simmons	1
Councillor Michael Situ	By email
Councillor Emily Tester	By email

**RESERVES**

Councillor John Batteson	By email
Councillor Laura Johnson	By email
Councillor Victoria Mills	By email
Councillor Cleo Soanes	By email
Councillor David Watson	By email

**OTHER COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Stephanie Cryan	By email
----------------------------	----------

**LAW AND DEMOCRACY**

Allan Wells	By email
Doreen Forrester-Brown	By email

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Louise Neilan	By email
---------------	----------

**CONSTITUTIONAL TEAM**

Virginia Wynn-Jones	By email
---------------------	----------

**INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

Mr Musa Chunge	By email
Ms Amrit Mangra	By email

**FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

Duncan Whitfield	By email
Tim Jones	By email

<b>BDO</b> (Internal Auditors) – Greg Rubins	By email
--	----------

**GRANT THORNTON**

Ciaran McLaughlin	By email
Grant Thornton	
110 Bishopsgate	
London EC2N 4AY	

Matthew Dean	By email
Grant Thornton	
110 Bishopsgate	
London EC2N 4AY	

<b>Total Print Run:</b>	<b>2</b>
-------------------------	----------

List Updated: September 2022