

Referral from Standards & Audit Committee – Counter Fraud Service Update (Amanda Fahey, Assistant Chief Executive)

At its meeting on 22 November 2022, the Standards and Audit Committee considered a report on the renewal of a contract regarding the Council's Counter Fraud Service.

The Committee was fully supportive of Option 2, as recommended by the Assistant Chief Executive, and as set out in the report, a link to which was provided in the main agenda pack (item 7).

This option maintains the current resource, working with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (RBBC), on proactive cases outside of Housing and will allow Officers to dedicate more time to deal with reactive referrals from within the Council or from local residents.

Members of the Standards and Audit Committee were pleased to learn that RBBC had agreed to keep the costs for the first half of the year in line with the previous resource levels.

Therefore, Members are asked to note that the actual cost for 2022/23 is £115,045, representing a saving of £19,045. The total cost going forward is therefore £134,090, plus an uplift on salary costs of 2% per annum for each of 2023/24 and 2024/25. Costs to be split 80/20 between the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund, to represent the time spent in each area. Approval of this approach has been secured from the Chairman of the Housing Committee.

The Standards and Audit Committee approved a further 3-year agreement with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025 for the provision of a Counter Fraud Service, subject to the recommendation below being approved by this Committee.

Officers' Recommendation that –

a supplementary estimate of £12,700, be approved, to be split 80/20 between the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund, following consultation with the Chairman of the Housing Committee.

(To Resolve)