



**CITY OF YORK COUNCIL
COUNTER FRAUD PLAN**

2020/21



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This plan sets out the activities that the counter fraud service delivers for the City of York Council. The plan was originally scheduled to be presented to Audit and Governance committee for approval in April 2020. Following the cancellation of that meeting Veritau has been undertaking work in response to Covid-19 fraud related issues as well as other types of fraud occurring during this period.
- 1.2 A total of 1,060 days of counter fraud work has been agreed for 2020/21. A large proportion of this work will comprise reactive investigations which are determined by referrals received from officers and the public about suspected fraud. Other work will be undertaken in accordance with priorities determined by the Counter Fraud Risk Assessment and Counter Fraud Strategy Action Plan (presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in February).
- 1.3 The plan includes an allocation of time for work already undertaken in 2020/21, in response to Covid-19 issues. The counter fraud service is supporting the council with advice on emerging counter fraud threats as a result of the pandemic and with resources to support counter fraud checks around payment of grants to businesses.

2. 2020/21 COUNTER FRAUD PLAN

- 2.1 A summary of planned areas of work is set out in the table below.

Area	Scope
Counter Fraud General	<p>Monitoring changes to regulations and guidance, review of counter fraud risks, and support to the council with maintenance of the counter fraud framework. This will include completion of the annual counter fraud risk assessment and review of the counter fraud policy and strategy.</p> <p>The counter fraud team has provided support to the council on counter fraud risks during its initial response to Covid-19, including preparation of updated fraud risk assessments to reflect current threats during the emergency.</p>

Area	Scope
Proactive Work	<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising awareness of counter fraud issues and procedures for reporting suspected fraud - for example through training and provision of updates on fraud related issues • targeted proactive counter fraud work - for example through local and regional data matching exercises • support and advice on cases which may be appropriate for investigation and advice on appropriate measures to deter and prevent fraud. <p>The counter fraud team has been supporting the council in the first few months of 2020/21 by undertaking pre-payment counter fraud checks to help prevent and detect fraudulent applications for Covid-19 related grants to businesses. Further post payment assurance checks will also be undertaken.</p>
Reactive Investigations	<p>Investigation of suspected fraud affecting the council. This includes feedback on any changes needed to procedures to prevent fraud recurring.</p> <p>A number of potentially fraudulent applications for Covid-19 business grants have already come to light and further cases are expected – for example as a result of post payment assurance work. The team will continue to investigate cases and support the recovery of funds.</p>
National Fraud Initiative (NFI)	<p>Coordinating submission of data to the Cabinet Office for the NFI national fraud data matching programme and investigation of matches.</p>
Fraud Liaison	<p>Acting as a single point of contact for the Department for Work and Pensions, to provide data to support their housing benefit investigations.</p>