

Annex B

Extracts from Audit Commission Reports published in 2009/10 for CYC

Extract from the Annual Governance Report 2008/09 (Published September 2009)

The fraud investigation service has been effective in bringing successful prosecutions for external fraud during 2008/09 working with the Police and DWP which have been well publicised in the local press. They exceeded their targets in 2008/09 for sanctions and successful prosecutions, and these increased by 15% on the previous year.

The programme of counter fraud and corruption work is resourced, risk based and proportionate. There is an annual counter fraud activity plan agreed by the Audit Committee.

Extract from Use of Resources Report 2008/09 (Published September 2009) and Annual Audit Letter 2008/09 (Published December 2009)

The programme of counter fraud and corruption work is resourced, risk based and proportionate. There is an annual counter fraud activity plan agreed by the Audit Committee. This includes budgets for both reactive and preventative work and time for staff training and general fraud awareness. The counter fraud and corruption policy was revised and approved in March 2008, prepared in accordance with CIPFA good practice principles, and it sets out the overall approach of the Council.

The Council has a strong counter fraud culture and reviews the success of its arrangements. Fraud awareness training was provided to certain groups of staff, the council publicises successful investigations, and continued to work closely with the DWP and other organisations. The fraud team work with key departments such as housing to raise awareness and identify potential frauds, and internal and external publicity of the fraud team and successful prosecutions is used frequently. Several high profile cases with successful prosecutions, either working with the police or bringing their own prosecution, have served to embed a strong counter fraud culture within the council and a public awareness that fraud is not tolerated.

The Council's Audit and Governance Committee has a balanced membership, is independent, receives and approves reports on the control framework, and training is provided to members of the Committee. The Committee is starting to actively challenge internal control arrangements, though there is little evidence of liaison with other committees to identify potential internal control issues. The Council has an effective internal audit service that completed over 90% of the 2008/09 audit plan, but there have been vacancies in 2008/09 that have impacted on delivery. In addition in 2008/09 the Council has delivered the project to establish a separate Internal Audit shared service provider, which commenced on 1 April 2009. We will assess the operation and impact of the new arrangements in next years' Use of Resources assessment. The Internal Audit plan provides sufficient assurance over financial controls.