

## **Counter-Fraud for data transparency**

S43 of the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, requires local authorities to publish information about their counter fraud work.

The attached figures cover the period 1/4/2016 – 31/3/2017.

### **Number of occasions powers were used under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers**

- Internal Audit Not used
- Revenues Not used
- Benefits Not used
- Housing Not used

### **Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud**

- Internal Audit One employee (approx. 0.1 FTE) may be involved in investigations that could relate to fraud and also reviews potential fraud cases from annual National Fraud Initiative (NFI) reports received
- Benefits Investigations staff were transferred to the DWP SFIS in December 2015  
One employee (0.65 FTE) is now engaged in a fraud liaison role
- Housing Housing Fraud Investigator (1 FTE)
- Legal Services No prosecutions in 2016/17

### **Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists**

- Internal Audit None
- Benefits None
- Housing 1

### **Total spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud**

- Internal Audit c. £5k (based upon staff time)
- Revenues c. £2k (additional review of NFI reports)  
c. £4k (credit reference agency matching)
- Housing c. £42k (staff time, appropriate subscriptions and fees, etc.)

### **Total number of fraud cases investigated**

- Internal Audit / Revenues  
The Council undertook a review of Council Tax Single Person Discount entitlement in 2016, using credit reference agency data. c.300 leads were reviewed by Revenues staff and 177 accounts subsequently had bills

- Housing
  - altered – however, these were not classed as formal 'fraud' investigations
  - 9 properties brought back into the housing stock through key surrender after the tenant was issued with a Notice To Quit
  - 3 inappropriate Right To Buy applications refused
  - 3 inappropriate applications to the Housing register prevented.

It should be noted that more detailed information on the Council's counter-fraud activities is presented to the Audit & Governance Committee in June, covering the previous financial year. A copy of this report is provided on the Data Transparency web page. <http://www.arun.gov.uk/transparency>