

Report to: Audit Committee
Date of meeting: 19th March 2008
Report of: Audit Manager
Title: Fraud Team Business Plan 2008/09

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report presents the Benefit Fraud Investigation Team's Business Plan for 2008/09

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Fraud Investigation Team's Plan be approved.

Contact Officer:

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Report approved by: Janice Maule, Director of Finance

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 The Fraud Team's business plan is submitted for approval on an annual basis as a measure of best practice.

3.2 As a result of the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate's report of early 2007, there were a number of operational changes introduced during 2007/08. These led to significant improvements in the team's performance and the key aim of the 2008/09 plan is to build upon these improvements.

3.3 During the past year the team has been led by an interim manager. As Shared Services approach the position of full time manager is to be deleted and it is proposed that the role will be undertaken by the current manager of the Three Rivers District Council fraud team. Since the introduction of a new case management system in April 2007 the need for administrative support for the team has reduced considerably and the post providing this support is also to be deleted. Any administrative tasks remaining will be distributed amongst the remaining members of the team and other members of the Finance Service.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Director of Finance comments that the deletion of posts is reflected in the 2008/09 budget.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services comments that there are no specific legal issues in the report.

4.3 **Potential Risks**

4.3.1 None attached to the report itself. Failure to maintain robust fraud prevention and detection arrangements could lead to an increase in cases of fraud.

Appendices

Fraud Team Business Plan.

Background Papers

None