

**Report to:** Audit Committee

**Date of meeting:** 12 March 2014

**Report of:** Alan Power - Head of Finance Shared Services

**Title:** Fraud Briefing 2013

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report gives details of the Audit Commission's *Protecting the Public Purse 2013* and provides comparative information for this Council.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the report be noted.

**Contact Officer:**

For further information on this report please contact: -  
Garry Turner, Fraud Manager  
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**Report approved by:** Alan Power, Head of Finance

### 3.0 **DETAILS**

3.1 The Audit Commission have produced a local report shown in Appendix 1 from their national publication *Protecting the Public Purse 2013* and is presented by Grant Thornton.

3.2 The national report shows that fraud costs the UK public sector £20 billion a year and local government more than £2 billion a year. The Audit Commission report can be downloaded from –

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Protecting-the-public-purse-2013-Fighting-fraud-against-local-government.pdf>

Shown at Appendix 2 is a checklist for councilors and others responsible for governance.

Shown at Appendix 3 is a range of questions for Councillors over a variety of fraud types.

3.3 Richard Lawson from Grant Thornton and Garry Turner, the Fraud Manager will be present at the meeting to answer questions from Members.

### 4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

#### 4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 None Specific.

#### 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 None Specific.

#### 4.3 **Equalities**

None Specific.

#### 4.4 **Potential Risks**

There are no risks associated with the decisions members are being asked to make.

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1	Protecting the Public Purse – Fraud Briefing 2013, Watford Borough Council
Appendix 2	Checklist for Councilors and others responsible for Governance.
Appendix 3	Protecting the Public Purse – Questions for Councillors to support the Fraud Briefing