

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Audit Commission Protecting the Public Purse Fraud Briefing</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Audit Committee on 4 February 2013
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Julie Holland, Interim Head of Business Assurance & Democratic Services

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

The Audit Commission published Protecting the Public Purse in 2013 which summarises frauds detected by local government. This report highlights that £178 million of fraud was detected by local government in the last year. Just over three quarters of that total was detected by one quarter of councils. The fraud briefing for Wokingham Borough Council helps the authority local priorities and response to the fraud risk.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee is asked to note the fraud briefing presentation that has been compiled by the Audit Commission following the issue of the Protecting the Public Purse report.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Audit Commission have prepared fraud briefings for the external auditor for each local authority showing comparative details such as figures on cases and fraud detected. The purpose of the briefing is:

- Opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities;
- Reviews current counter fraud strategy and priorities;
- Discuss local and national fraud risks; and
- Reflect local priorities in a proportionate response to those risks.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

*The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
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Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**  
 Not applicable.

**Cross-Council Implications**  
 Not applicable.

**Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**  
 The report contains information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

**List of Background Papers**  
 None.

<b>Contact</b> Julie Holland	<b>Service</b> Governance and Improvement Services
<b>Telephone No</b> 0118 974 6630	<b>Email</b> Julie.Holland@wokingham.gov.uk
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