

9. COUNTER FRAUD REPORT FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2018/19
(APRIL TO SEPTEMBER)

The committee resolved that this and the item of business following should be considered in private under paragraphs 1 and 14 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Audit, Risk and Counter Fraud Manager providing an update on the performance and activities of the Counter Fraud Team for the six months from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018. The work had been carried out in accordance with the council's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Whistleblowing Policy and the council's zero-tolerance approach to fraud.

The Counter Fraud Team administered the National Fraud Initiative and worked in partnership with the council's external auditors – Ernst & Young, Police Scotland, NHS, Scotland Counter Fraud services and other local authorities for the prevention and detection of fraud, theft and wrongdoings against the council.

The report summarised the referrals received by the Counter Fraud Team during the monitoring period and provided a summary of investigation outcomes. Appendix 1 of the report (private) summarised fraud incidents encountered during the monitoring period, while Appendix 2 provided a list of the Performance Indicators for the team's work.

In the discussion that followed, the committee noted the recent and expected impact of staffing and resources on the number of referrals and their processing.

It was recommended that the committee note the performance and activities undertaken by the Counter Fraud Team during the first six months of the 2018/19 financial year.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report.
2. To note completion by Roberta Irvine, Counter Fraud and Compliance Officer, of the CIPFA Accredited Counter Fraud Specialist qualification.