

2026-27 Counter Fraud Plan

The plan is intended to provide a clear picture of how the Council intends to use The Corporate Fraud Team, reflecting all areas of work that the team may be involved in during the financial year.

The team comprises two Senior Corporate Fraud Officers, one of which is part-time, and one Corporate Fraud Officer. After taking into account provisions for non- fraud duties, such as holidays, sickness, training and administration / management time, totaling 312 days, there are 398 working days available to undertake fraud duties.

The plan includes activity linked to fraud awareness and prevention, proactive counter fraud work and responsive investigations.

It should be noted that some of the activity is aspirational and dependent on the resources available as the investigation of suspected fraud must take priority. For example, if the data matching activity linked to the National Fraud Initiative creates a significant volume of cases to be investigated, it may not be appropriate to undertake further pro-active exercises.

Fraud Awareness & Prevention

Ref	Activity	Scope	Indicative Days	Comments
1	Promote Fraud Awareness	Deliver awareness sessions for a range of staff and Members to increase knowledge of fraud risks, their role in prevention activity and the processes to refer suspicions to the counter fraud team.	5	
		Utilise communications channels to promote Bury's approach to combatting fraud and corruption. Report successful fraud outcomes where appropriate.	2	
2	Corporate Working Groups	Attend internal liaison meetings and Project Boards to offer advice on fraud risks and prevention.	4	
3	Actioning Fraud Alerts	Review and share fraud alerts highlighting current fraud trends and attempts.	3	

Pro-Active Counter Fraud Activity

Ref	Activity	Scope	Indicative Days	Comments
1	Fraud Risk Assessments	<p>Conduct in depth fraud risk assessments on areas identified as having a high risk of fraud.</p> <p>Housing remains a key fraud risk area and includes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • successions / false assignments • mutual exchange • housing/homeless applications 	60	<p>Carried forward from 25/26</p> <p>This will help to alleviate the pressures and costs Bury Council are facing in provision of temporary housing and free up social housing for those in most need.</p>
2	NFI	Coordinate and assess a selection of data matches from the National Fraud Initiative exercises and investigate where necessary.	40	
3	Right to Buy Checks	Perform checks on all Right to Buy applications to identify any potential fraud including money laundering.	80	

Responsive Investigation Activity

Ref	Activity	Scope	Indicative Days	Comments
1	Responsive investigation work(external)	Conduct investigations into referrals of suspected fraud committed against the Council by external sources. This may include, but is not limited, to illegal subletting of council houses, Adult Social Care Direct Payments, Council Tax single person discount fraud, Council Tax Support fraud, Blue Badge misuse, Business Rates Relief frauds and invoice fraud.	170	
2	Responsive investigation work(Internal)	Conduct investigations into suspected fraud or malpractice and assist with disciplinary investigations as required.	10	

Other Counter Fraud Activity

Ref	Activity	Scope	Indicative Days	Comments
1	Keep up to date with best practice	Assess ourselves against the Fighting Fraud & Corruption Locally Strategy. Attend Lancashire & Greater Manchester Fraud Investigators Group meetings.	5	
2	Responding to information requests	Respond to information requests from the Police, local authorities and other investigatory bodies under exemptions in the Data Protection Act/General Data Protection Regulations.	14	
3	Partnership working	Attend Organised Crime Group meetings, share information and participate in days of action to support Greater Manchester Police in making Bury a hostile environment for criminal activity.	5	

Non-Fraud Activity (312 days)

Ref	Activity	Scope	Indicative Days
1	Management / Admin	Supervision, HR responsibilities (e.g. 1:1's, Health and Safety / risk assessments), Chief Executive briefings, Administration – electronic file maintenance / server maintenance	135
2	Training	Mandatory e-learning courses e.g GDPR etc	22
3	Annual leave / banked leave / purchased leave/ bank holidays / sickness		155
	Total		312