

Counter Fraud Update

CURRENT OPERATIONS

- A series of proactive feasibility fraud drives are being launched across the hub region. To enable this to happen substantial works have been undertaken on the legal framework of operational fraud investigation and prosecution. Initial pilots at Cheltenham BC have proven to be effective and exceeding targets set out in the DCLG funding document.
- Health & Safety work stream to ensure lone working policies and personal safety protocol in place. New alarm assets are being procured for the counter fraud officers.
- A new Counter Fraud Policy is under consultation across the hub. All S151 officers have seen and commented on the document and this is now progressing through corporate teams and on to the relevant committees for approval.
- Project implementation re county wide data warehouse and case management system including West Oxfordshire; with the ability to link up with Oxford City, is now well underway with formal procurement being undertaken. Recruitment of the staff for the data warehouse is also underway.
- Engagement with housing associations in the Gloucestershire region via the Gloucestershire Tenancy Fraud Forum is now well underway including the delivery of works under contract for several of them.

PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

- Project Initiation Document (PID) has been produced and presented to Gloucestershire Chief Finance Officer Group meeting in September (including plan for engagement with Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire)
- The PID is being updated with comments received and various project roles now allocated.
- Financial forecast and models under development, with particular focus on the accounting for fraud which is an unpredictable variable.

TIMELINE

- Schedule of works for Local Authority's within the area
- The Section 101 agreement is expected to take at least 6-8 months. Section 113 agreements are being used as a temporary solution until S101 available.

PLANNED WORK STREAMS

- More structured approach and agreement with regard to fraud work for Cotswold DC and West Oxfordshire DC
- Policy and procedures are under review and alignment across Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire

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