

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 June 2016

Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2016/17

This report informs Members of the Proposed Work Programme and Scales of Fees in respect of the National Fraud Initiative 2016/17.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is a data matching exercise run every two years, in addition relevant local authorities are also required to upload council tax and electoral register data every year which is matched to identify potential erroneous Single Person Discount claims. The Cabinet Office became responsible for data matching exercises following the closure of the Audit Commission. The NFI 2016/17 will be undertaken under the Cabinet Office's data matching powers set out in Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
- 1.1.2 Under these powers, the Cabinet Office has a statutory duty to prescribe scales of fees for its data matching exercise. Before, prescribing any scales of fees, the Cabinet Office is required to consult with all authorities that it requires to provide data, as well as other bodies as the Cabinet Office sees fit.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Work Programme and Scales of Fees 2016/17 can be found at **[Annex 1]**. The Cabinet Office propose to introduce two new mandatory datasets, social housing waiting list data and council tax reduction scheme data, and that the scale of fees will remain unchanged from the NFI 2014/15.
- 1.1.4 This is technically a consultation process and the return date was 6 May 2016. It was considered on this occasion there were no particular comments that needed to be made in response to the consultation.
- 1.1.5 Following the consultation, the Cabinet Office will publish the final NFI 2016/17 Work Programme and Scales of Fees in June 2016.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 The NFI 2016/17 will be undertaken under the Cabinet Office's data matching powers set out in Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 The proposed fee can be met from within existing budget provision.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 None.

Background papers:

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Nil

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