

<b>Subject:</b>	Task and Finish Group Report: Counter Fraud	<b>Status:</b>	For publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
<b>Report of:</b>	Counter Fraud Task and Finish Group	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Customer Services and Health
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pat Couch	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252426
<b>Email:</b>	patriciacouch@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1.	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the recommendations of the Counter Fraud Task and Finish Group and request Cabinet to provide a response to the report recommendations within two months.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the task and finish group's work in relation to the Counter Fraud report.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 Following on from the Rogue Landlords Task and Finish Group, the Council identified a number of properties that have been 'deleted' or rated zero exempt from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) database. This would have a direct financial impact on revenue to the Council. As a result of these findings a task and finish group was established with the following terms of reference:

- To explore how the Council intends to identify the number of deletions and exemptions of both residential and non-domestic properties from the Valuation Office Agency Ratings List.
- To understand how the Council intends to identify how fraud/avoidance has been committed and measures being put in place to recoup these costs.
- To make recommendations to Cabinet on the results of this piece of work.

5.2 Meetings were held between July 2015 and January 2016, during which time the task and finish group heard from the Service Assurance Officers, Economic Development and External Funding Officer and the project officer from Rochdale Council.

- 5.3 The report detailing the recommendations of the task and finish group is attached at Appendix A.
- 5.4 In line with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a Cabinet response to the recommendations is required within two months of their first consideration of the report.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 6.1 Financial implications are noted in the report.

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 7.1 No legal implications for the Council.

**8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 8.1 Any additional staffing resources recommended in the report would be subject to relevant HR policies and procedures.
- 8.2 No policy implications for the Council.
- 8.3 The report set out in Appendix A has been produced in consultation with the Counter Fraud Task and Finish Group.
- 8.4 The recommendations have been sent to the relevant officers and Portfolio Holder for information.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The work of the task and finish group has concluded, and the findings and recommendations are being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for noting.