

Investigation Team – Progress Report

Resources



The Waste investigation has challenged the capacity of the Investigation Team, specifically in terms of supporting the Police, coordinating resources and leading the resultant internal Disciplinary Policy investigations, all of which have now been concluded. A number of these will progress, as appropriate, in accordance with the Council's Disciplinary Policy.

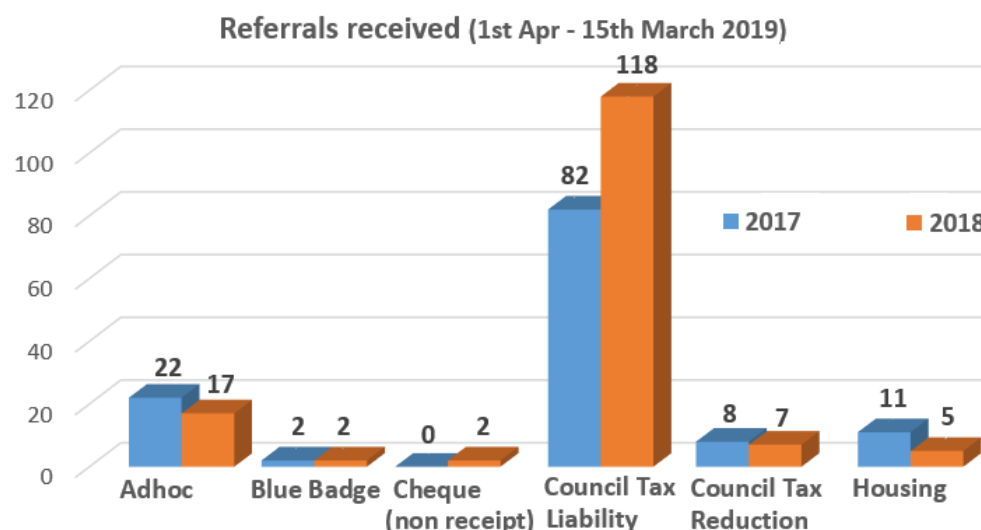
Additionally, the team continues to deal with requests for advice, support, and guidance. Data matching output continues to be reviewed, and there has been an increase in referrals received.

Training

Mandatory Investigating Officer training has continued to be delivered this year by the team, with 9 sessions / 75 attendees, compared to 11 sessions / 78 attendees last year. Feedback continues to be positive with 100% satisfaction.

Reactive - Referrals

151 fraud referrals were received, compared to 125 for the same period last year:



Proactive - Referrals

The Cabinet Office / Wales Audit Office - National Fraud Initiative matches data across organisations and systems to help public bodies identify fraud and overpayments. Since its commencement in 1996, NFI exercises have resulted in the detection and prevention of more than £35.4 million of fraud and overpayments.

Forty-eight Welsh public sector bodies took part in the 2016/17 exercise, including local authorities, police forces, fire authorities, NHS bodies, the Welsh Government, the Wales Audit Office and some housing associations and Welsh government sponsored bodies.

The Investigation Team submits data on behalf of the Council and receives reports of potential frauds and irregularities in respect of the annual and biennial exercises.

In respect of the annual Council Tax exercise, the Investigation Team has reviewed 2,323 matches, resulting in 539 overpayments classified as fraud or error, totalling £286,000.

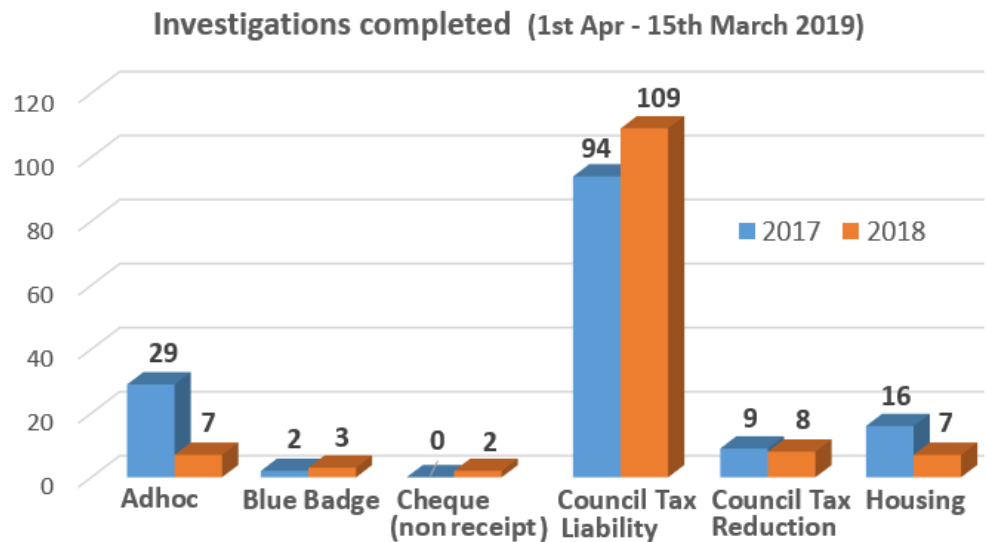
Initial output from the biennial, National Fraud Initiative exercise has recently been received, generating the following matches:

	High	Medium	Low
Blue Badge	531	148	0
Council Tax Reduction	50	169	1163
Housing Tenants	12	53	40
Pensions	1	0	0
Personal Budgets	20	4	6
Private Care Homes	13	38	0
Resident Parking	27	0	1
Right to Buy	40	3	0
Waiting List (Housing)	20	436	1

Work has commenced on these matches and will continue into 2019.

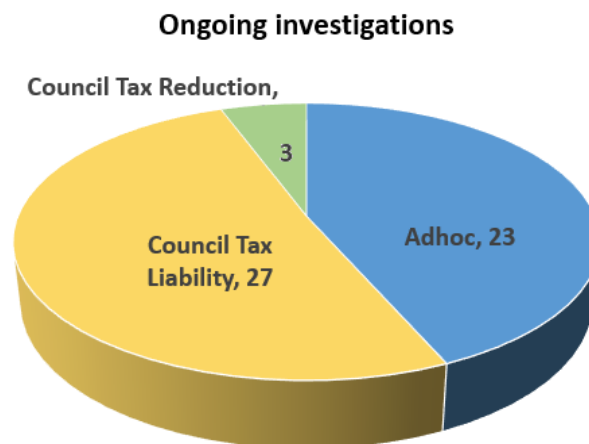
Investigations concluded

136 fraud investigations were concluded in 2018/19, with a total value exceeding £73,000 compared to 150 cases in 2017:



Investigations ongoing

There are currently 53 investigations ongoing:



Adhoc referrals relate to employee misconduct or allegations of fraud committed by external persons against the Council.