

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee : 28 May 2008

Subject : Benefit Investigation Team Fraud Results 2007/2008 and Annual Business Plan 2008/2009

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the performance of the benefit investigation team during 2007/2008 and to seek approval for the team's business plan for 2008/2009.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) counter fraud performance standards recommend that an annual business plan be developed and agreed for counter fraud work.
- 2.2** The recent Benefit Fraud Inspection (BFI) on counter fraud activity recommended that targets are monitored closely and reported regularly to senior officers and elected Members.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** A business plan was developed for the investigation team in 2007/2008 and the Benefit Investigation Team fraud results report 2007/2008 compares the results achieved with the targets set out in that plan (Appendix 1).
- 3.2** The annual business plan 2008/2009 sets out the main elements of fraud work that the investigation team intends to undertake during 2008/2009. The plan sets out the annual targets for the team and details the performance reporting mechanisms (Appendix 2).

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There is no requirement to carry out a risk analysis.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** Since 2006/2007 there has been significant change in the working practices within the benefit investigation team. As well as working alongside the BFI and ensuring compliance with their recommendations, the team is focused on an intelligence led approach to investigations with a view to conducting them to standards which enable prosecution.

8. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to:-

- (a) Note the benefit investigation team fraud results report 2007/2008; and**
- (b) Approve the benefit investigation team business plan for 2008/2009.**

Joyce White
Executive Director of Corporate Services
Date: May 2008

Ward Affected:	All
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Benefit Investigation Team Fraud Results Report 2007/2008 Appendix 2 – Benefit Investigation Team Annual Business Plan 2008/2009
Background Papers:	None
Person to Contact:	Marion Smith – Section Head (Revenues), Rosebery Place, Clydebank Telephone (01389) 738754 E-mail: marion.smith@west-dunbarton.gov.uk