

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Audit and Governance Committee – 23 July 2024</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Housing Tenancy Fraud Update Report</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Johanne Batty, Neighbourhood Services Manager</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Matt Stanley
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> The report will support the following areas in the corporate vision. Delivering the right homes in the right places Provide a mixed housing economy within the district for all, regardless of age or circumstances, where different types of homes are available, and people can choose to rent or buy. Continue to bring empty homes back into use for the benefit of the community. The report will share with Members the number of fraud referrals received and the outcomes of these. The report shares where we have been able to successfully obtain properties back supporting our corporate priorities to deliver homes in the right places and bring empty homes back into use.	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013 sets out provisions about the investigation of social housing fraud and creates offences and makes other provisions relating to sub-letting and parting with possession of social housing. We investigate housing fraud to make sure that homes are fairly given to the people who need them.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> The report sets out the financial savings to the council from 2018-19 to year to date.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update to Members

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Audit and Governance Members are asked to note the content of this report.

### 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An annual housing tenancy fraud progress update report to the Audit and Governance Committee.

### 4. DETAIL

The Audit and Governance Committee have requested that an annual update report be provided to the Committee on housing fraud.

#### Fraud Investigation comparison data 2018 to date

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of referrals received	unrecorded	145	0		264	306
Properties successfully obtained back	14	12	0	9	10	13
Sole to joint applications stopped	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mutual exchange applications declined	0	0	0	0	4	8
Tenancy succession requests declined	0	0	0	0	0	2
Number of cases referred for legal action	0	0	0	0	1	0
Right to Buy applications refused	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	1
Housing benefit and council tax reclaimed	£15,920.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,324.00	£8,599.00	£4,003.00
Fraud saving	£1,320,000.00	£1,116,000.00	£0.00	£837,000.00	£1,302,000.00	£2,325,000.00
<b>Total financial saving to the Council</b>	<b>£1,335,920.00</b>	<b>£1,116,000.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£839,324.00</b>	<b>£1,310,599.00</b>	<b>£2,329,003.00</b>

Please note that 2020-21 the post remained vacant

### 5. CONSULTATION

Not applicable

### 6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Not applicable

### 7. COMMENTS BY THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

Not applicable

### 8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

### 9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

No applicable

**10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

Not applicable

**11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

Not applicable

**12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

Not applicable

**13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

Not applicable

**14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

No applicable

**15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

Not applicable

**16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

Not applicable

**17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable

---

**CONTACT OFFICER:**

Name: Johanne Batty  
Job Title: Neighbourhood Services Manager  
Contact Number: 01903 737721

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** *None*