

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Audit, Risk and Performance Lead	Audit and Standards Committee	14 November 2023

**NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE (NFI) – DATA MATCHING EXERCISE 2022/23**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To report to members of Audit and Standards Committee the results of the 2022/23 National Fraud Initiative data matching exercise.

**2. Outcomes**

- 2.1 The ability to demonstrate that the council is determined to do everything it can to prevent and detect fraud. It works hard to encourage the detection, reporting and investigation of fraud and actively promotes a zero tolerance approach.

**3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report detailed at Appendix A.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 Wyre Council are active participants in the NFI national data matching exercise. A full NFI data matching exercise is completed every two years and a council tax single person discount (SPD) matching exercise is carried out annually. These exercises match electronic data within and between audited bodies to prevent and detect fraud. This includes police authorities, local probation boards, fire and rescue authorities as well as other local councils and other government departments. Each organisation carries out data matching under its own powers, but uses the Cabinet Office's processes and expertise.

- 4.2 This year (2022/23) a full NFI data matching exercise took place with a total of 4,862 data matches being returned for investigation.

**5. Key Issues and proposals**

- 5.1 The results of the NFI exercise can be found in Appendix A (Para 3.1 – 3.3) which overall reports a total of £6,422.52 in errors and overpayments having been identified so far, of which the total amount is in the process of being recovered.

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	Covered in detail in the report.
Legal	None arising directly from the report.

### **Other risks / implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with an x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
Data Protection	x

### **Processing Personal Data**

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

### **List of appendices**

Appendix A – National Fraud initiative – Data Matching Exercise 2022/23 Report