



Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date	10 OCTOBER 2023
Topic	SCAMS & FRAUD PREVENTION

BACKGROUND

There are many words used to describe fraud: Scam, con, swindle, extortion, sham, double-cross, hoax, cheat, ploy, ruse, hoodwink, confidence trick. Fraud is when a person lies to you, or 'scams' you, to gain an advantage, such as taking your money or learning private information about you. This could be via email, text, phone or in person, either on the street or on your doorstep. In the first half of 2022 alone, criminals stole a total of £609.8 million through scams, according to UK Finance data. In June last year, Citizens Advice warned that more than three quarters of UK adults had been targeted by a scam in 2022 – a 14% increase compared with 2021.

The IOW Trading Standards Service joined forces with the Police, Fire and Rescue, Age Friendly Island and the Citizens Advice Bureau to form a partnership called IWASP (Isle of Wight Against Scams Partnership). These organisations work together to protect people on the Isle of Wight from scams, doorstep crime, fraud and to support victims.

FOCUS FOR SCRUTINY

- How would the Council describe the current status of personal fraud on the Island?
- How do the Council make the public aware of how to report personal fraud?
- Cases of personal fraud locally (e.g., any data on prevalence / demographics / types, what the departments encounter, case studies etc.)
- Partnership working with stakeholders (e.g., internally with other Council departments, Police, victim support, voluntary sector) around this issue.
- How does the Council highlight this issue and help in reducing the risk of people becoming a victim of personal fraud (e.g., anti-fraud campaigns / messages, examples of best practice from other Local Authorities in tackling this)?
- Any Council-specific support mechanisms in place for personal fraud victims?
- Has there been an impact from COVID-19 on local cases / types?

APPROACH

A report to be provided.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

Appendix 1 – Scams and Fraud Prevention Report

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