

Protecting the English Public Purse Fraud Briefing 2015

Hertfordshire County Council

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Purpose of Fraud Briefing

1. Provide an information source to support councillors in considering their council's fraud detection activities
2. Extend an opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities
3. Give focus to discussing local and national fraud risks, reflect on local priorities and the proportionate responses needed
4. Be a catalyst for reviewing the council's current strategy, resources and capability for tackling fraud

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About TEICCAF

The European Institute for Combatting Corruption And Fraud

Not for profit charity seeking to provide counter fraud and corruption strategic vision and thought leadership for public sector and charity organisations

Staffed by the former Audit Commission Counter Fraud Team

Continuation of expertise on the fraud risks facing councils

Continuation of the award winning '*Protecting the Public Purse*' reports

Working collaboratively with public sector bodies, charities and private companies across the UK, Europe and around the World

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Understanding the bar charts

All data are drawn from council submissions for the TEICCAF annual fraud and corruption survey for 2014/15

Your council is compared with the other county councils taking part in the voluntary survey

County councils submission rate: 66.7%

English councils surveyed submission rate: 59.5%

(County councils, district councils, metropolitan districts & unitary authorities and London boroughs)

Your council for detected cases is shown in **Yellow**

Your council for detected value is shown in **Red**

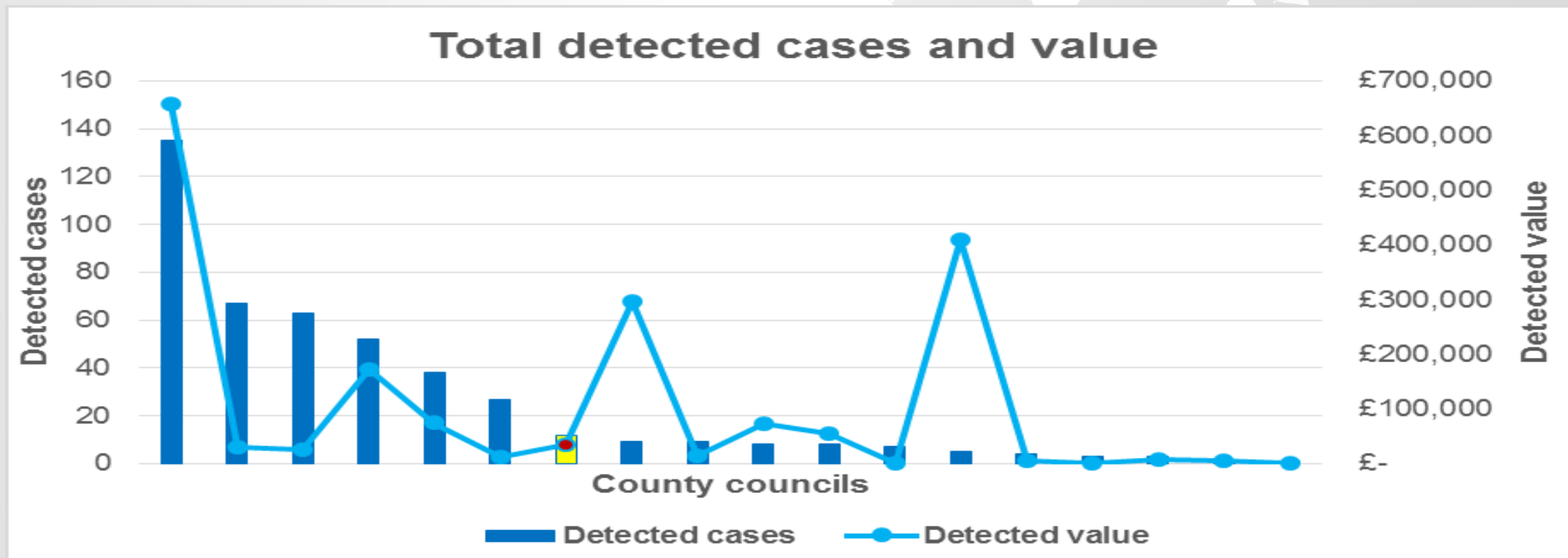
All averages are 'mean' averages

In some cases, council report they have detected fraud and do not report the number of cases and/or the value - for the purposes of this fraud briefing these '*Not Recorded*' records are shown as Nil

NB it is always best practice to ensure counter fraud activity is accurately and comprehensively recorded, particularly for assessing fraud risk

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Total detected cases and value

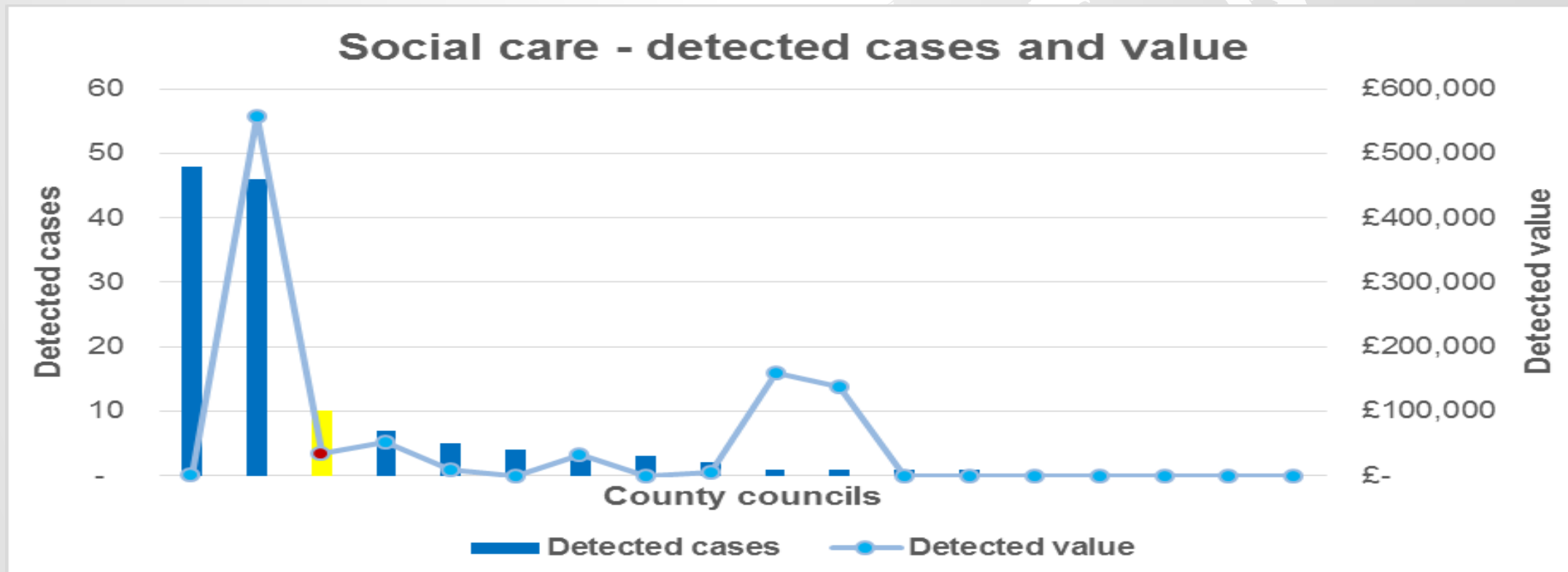


Your council - Total number of detected cases: 38. Total detected value: £33,638.

County council average per council – Detected cases: 25. Detected value: £104,039.

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Social care fraud

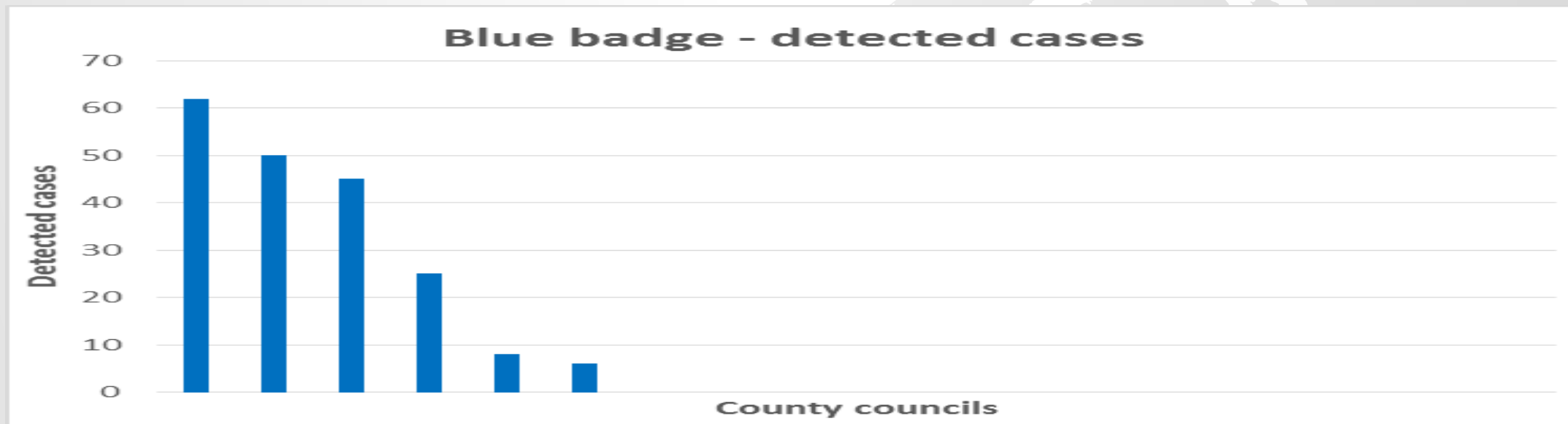


Your council - Total number of detected cases: 10. Total detected value: £33,638.

County council average per council – Detected cases: 25. Detected value: £54,812.

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Disabled parking (Blue Badge) fraud



Your council - Total number of detected cases: nil.

County council average per council – Detected cases: 11.

NB It is difficult to calculate the value of Blue Badge fraud. However, fraud causes social, as well as financial, harm – particularly the undermining of public confidence in public services

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Council tax (CTAX) discount fraud

In 2014/15 over 55% of district councils did not record a single detected CTAX discount fraud

The overwhelming bulk of CTAX collected by district councils goes to county councils

Are the district councils in your county doing enough to stop fraud losses to your county council income?

Is your council doing enough to support district councils in the prevention and detection of CTAX fraud?

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Other frauds

Procurement fraud

Your council - Total number of detected cases: 2. Total detected value: no value recorded.

County council average per council – Detected cases: 1. Detected value: £9,656.

Insurance fraud

Your council - Total number of detected cases: nil.

County council average per council – Detected cases: 1. Detected value: £929.

Economic and third sector fraud

Your council - Total number of detected cases: nil.

County council average per council – Detected cases: 1. Detected value: £764.

Internal fraud

Your council - Total number of detected cases: nil.

County council average per council – Detected cases: 4. Detected value: £30,161.

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Further information and support

The 'Protecting the English Public Purse 2015' (PEPP) report and the 'Protecting the London Public Purse 2015' (PLPP) report are available at www.teiccaf.com

These reports also contain a counter fraud checklist for councils to use – questions you may wish to ask:

- Are local priorities reflected in our approach to countering fraud?
- Have we considered counter-fraud partnership working?
- Are we satisfied that we will have access to comparative information and data to inform our counter-fraud decision making in the future?

If you have any questions concerning:

- this fraud briefing;
- TEICCAF; or
- how TEICCAF can support you in counter fraud, counter corruption and anti-money laundering?

Please contact Duncan Warmington, Secretary to the Board at duncanw@teiccaf.com

TEICCAF, and our sponsor, 'INTEC for business', hope you found this fraud briefing useful and encourage your council to participate in the 2015/16 TEICCAF annual fraud and corruption survey

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