Protecting the Public Purse
Fraud Briefing 2014
Suffolk County Council

Purpose of Fraud Briefing

Provide an information source to support councillors in considering their council's fraud detection activities

Extend an opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities
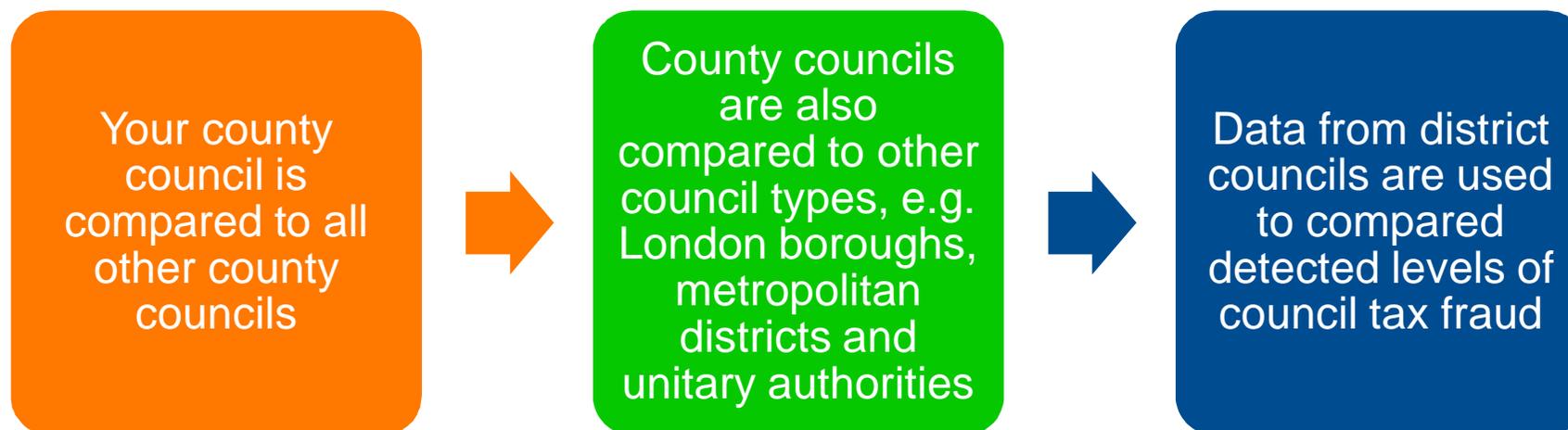
Give focus to discussing local and national fraud risks, reflect on local priorities and the proportionate responses needed

Be a catalyst for reviewing the council's current strategy, resources and capability for tackling fraud

Understanding the bar charts

Your county council is compared to all other county councils	County councils are also compared to other council types, e.g. London boroughs, metropolitan districts and unitary authorities	Data from district councils are used to compared detected levels of council tax fraud

All data are drawn from council submissions on the Audit Commission's annual fraud and corruption survey for the financial year 2013/14.
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.

audit commission

Interpreting fraud detection results

Contextual and comparative information needed to interpret results

Detected fraud is indicative, not definitive, of counter fraud performance *(Prevention and deterrence should not be overlooked)*

No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed *(Fraud will always be attempted and even with the best prevention measures some will succeed)*

Councils who look for fraud, and look in the right way, will find fraud *(There is no such thing as a small fraud, just a fraud that has been detected early)*
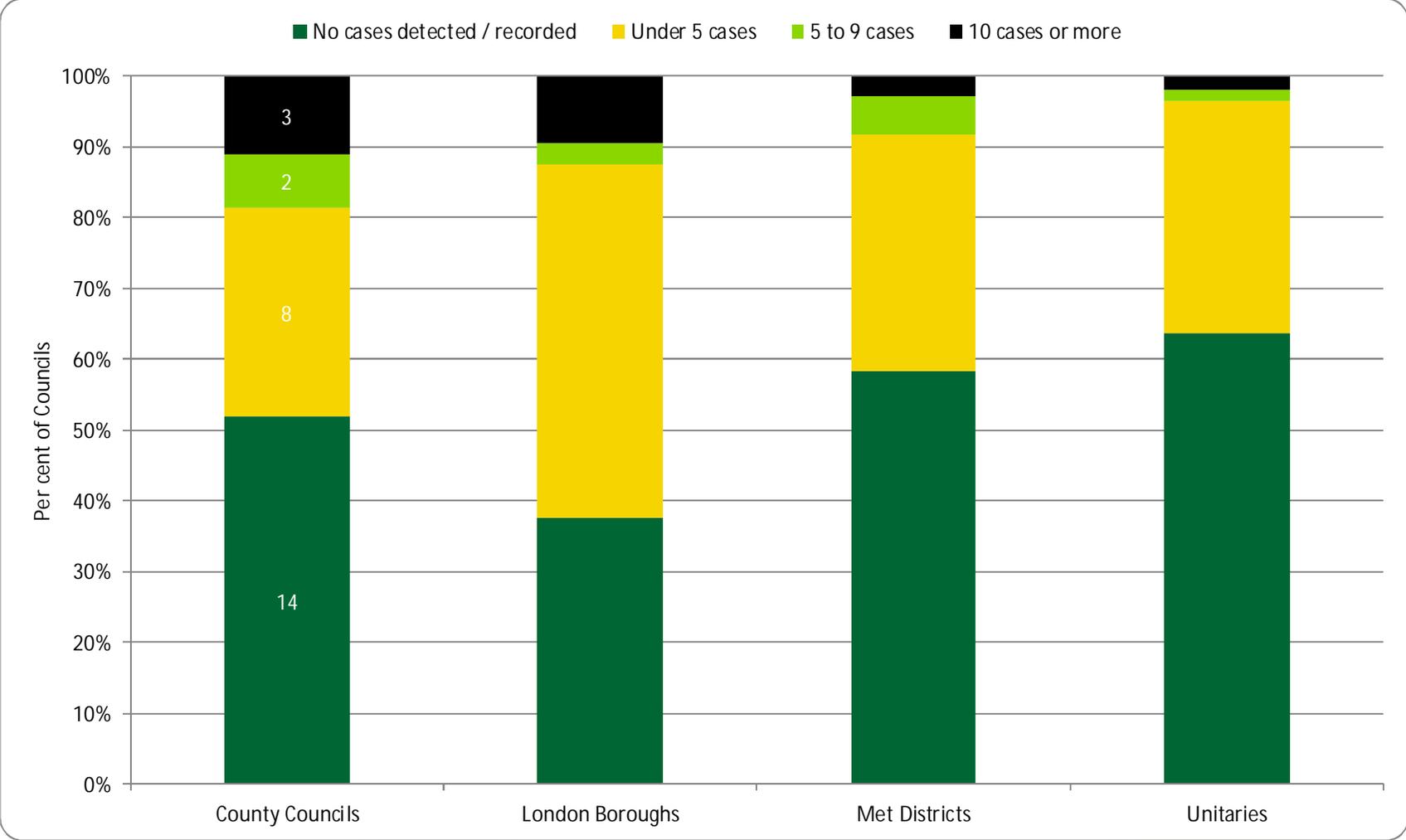
Total detected cases and value 2013/14

Per cent of county councils	Value of cases detected				
	No value recorded	Less than £15,000	£15,000 to £49,999	£50,000 to £149,999	£150,000 or more
No cases detected /	3.7	0	0	0	0
One to four cases	3.7	11.1	11.1	7.4	3.7
Five to twenty nine	7.4	11.1	3.7	11.1	7.4
Thirty cases or more	0	3.7	0	3.7	11.1

Suffolk detected 9 cases of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £117,264.
Average for other County Councils: 16 cases, valued at £164,025

audit commission

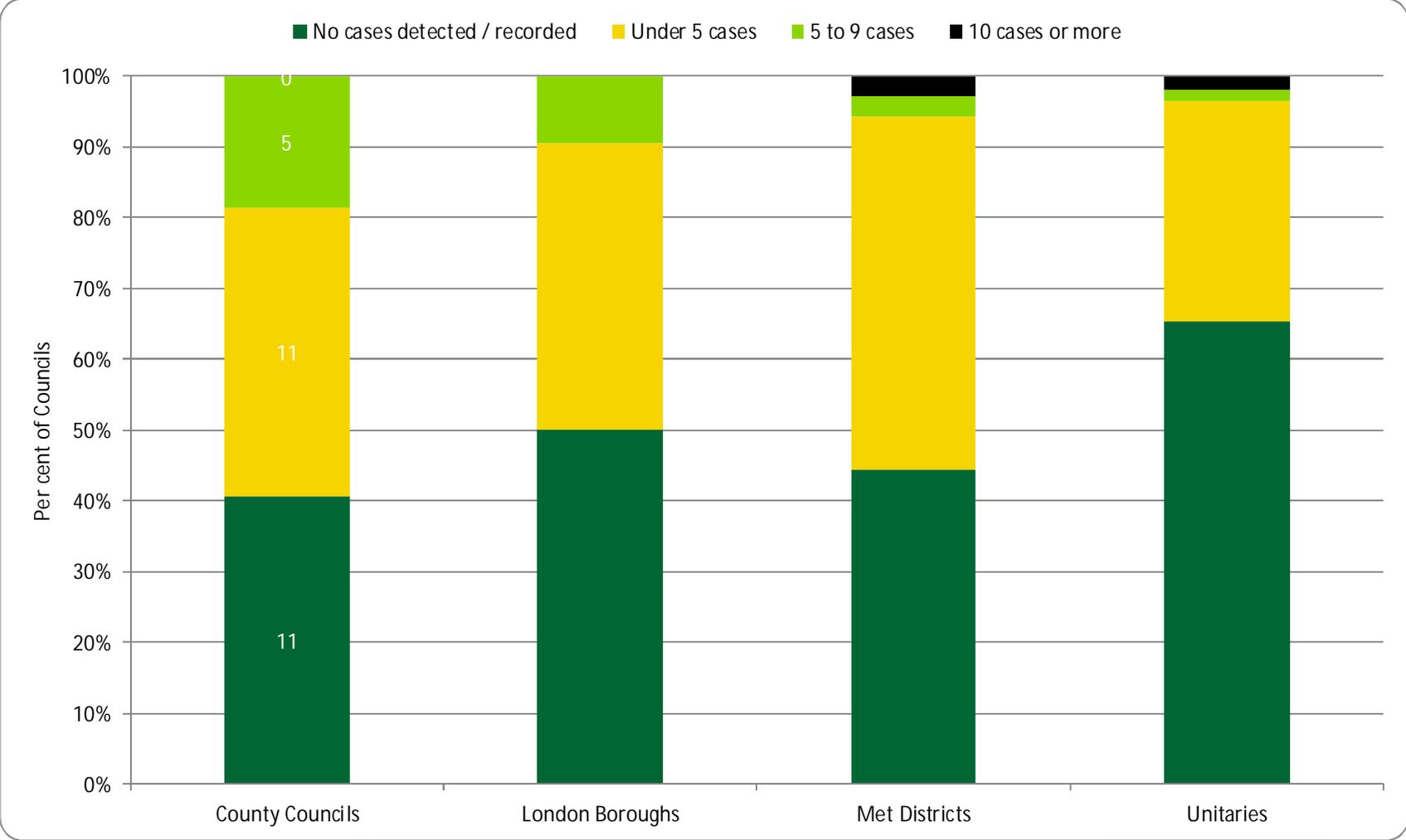# Social care fraud 2013/14
Detected cases

Suffolk detected 1 case of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £29,000.
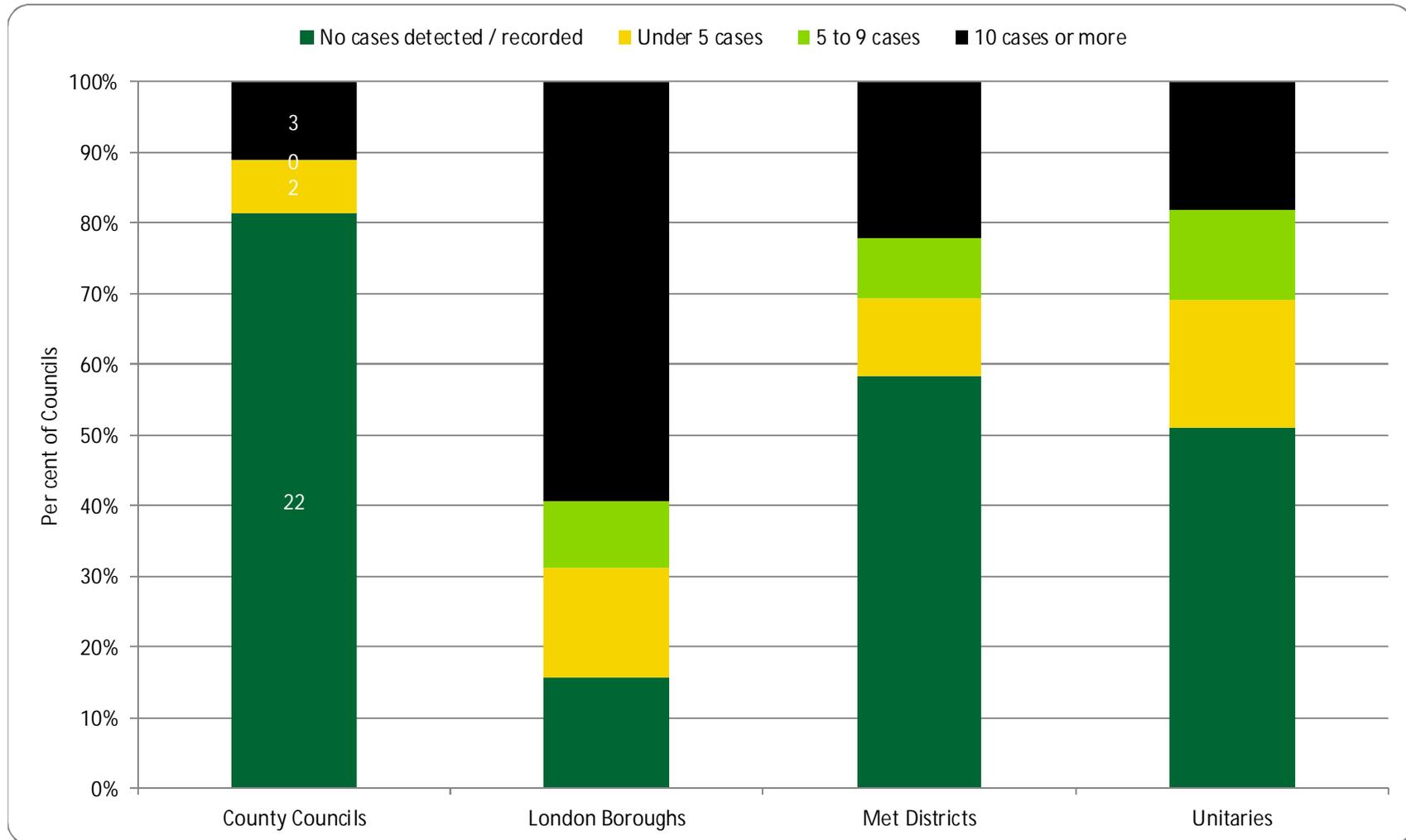
Schools fraud 2013/14
Detected cases

Schools in Suffolk detected 5 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £57,267.
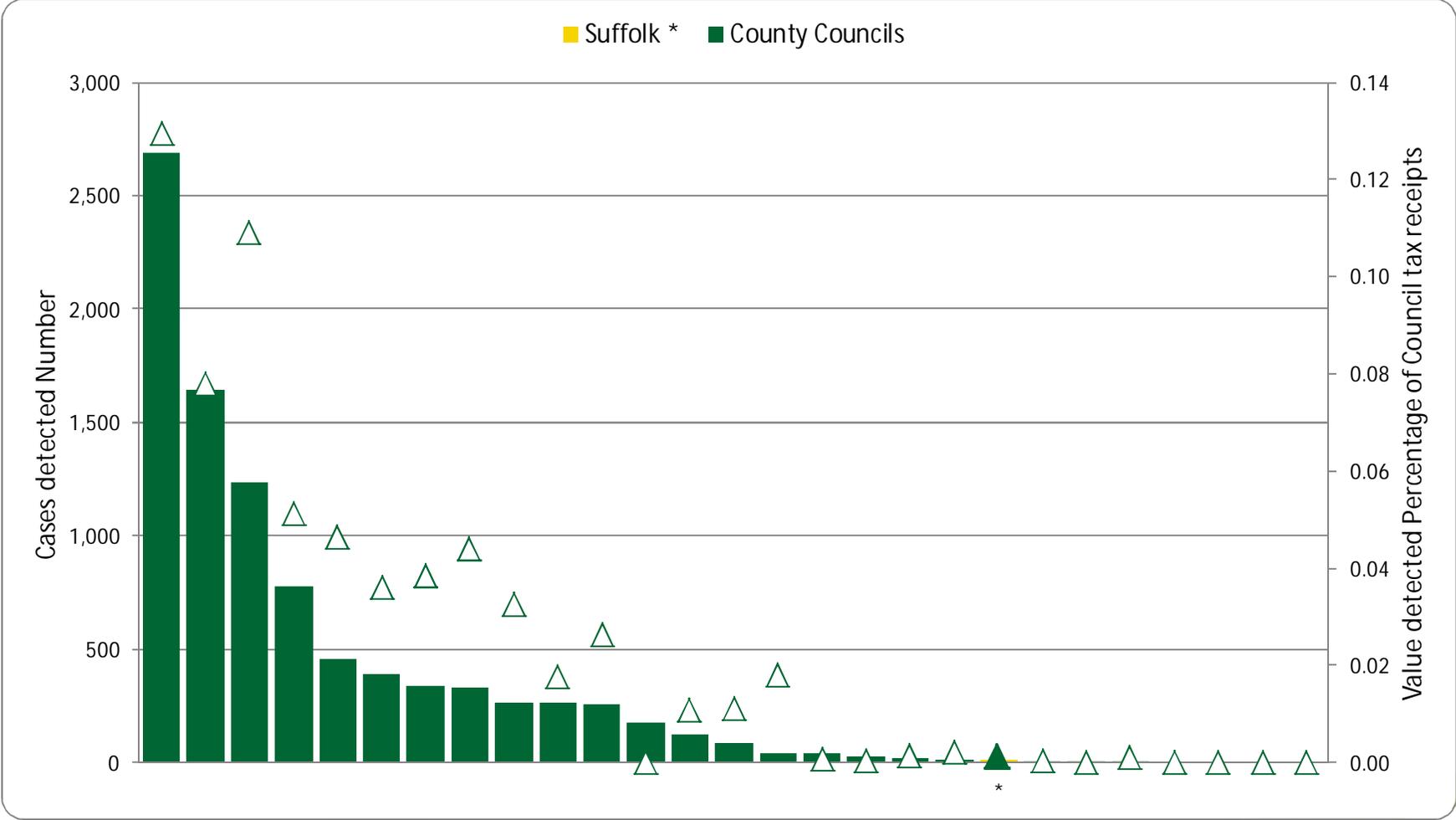
Disabled parking (Blue Badge) fraud 2012/13
Detected cases

Suffolk did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.

Council tax (CTAX) discount fraud
Detected cases and detected value as a percentage of council tax income for District Councils in your County Council area 2013/14

The district councils in Suffolk detected 11 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £3,958.

Suffolk

Procurement: Suffolk did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.
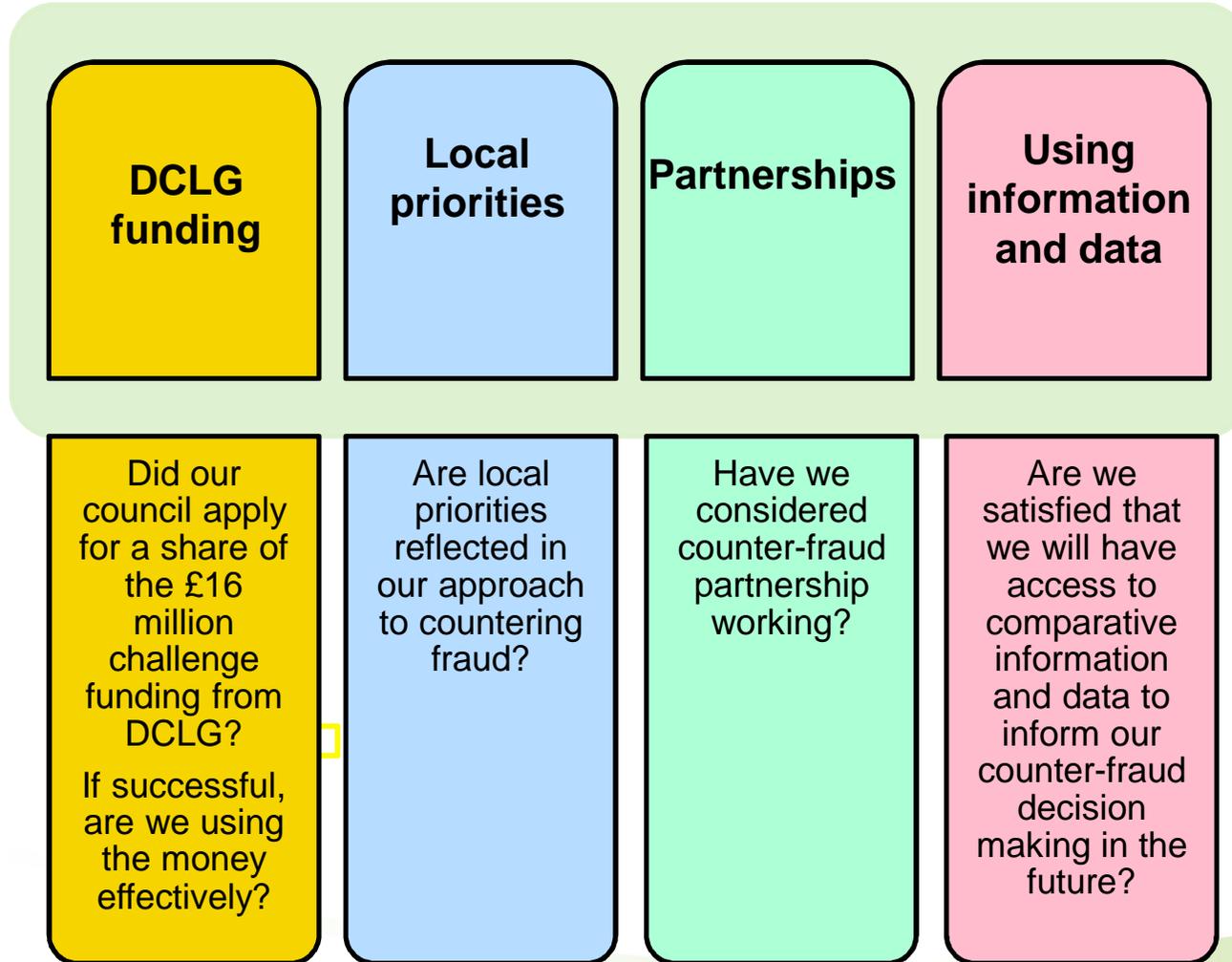Total for other County Councils: 20 cases, valued at £345,673

Insurance: Suffolk detected 1 case of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £7,000.
Total for other County Councils: 2 cases, valued at £4,925

Economic and third sector: Suffolk detected 1 case of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £15,000.
Total for other County Councils: 3 cases, valued at £2,000

Internal: Suffolk detected 3 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £56,264.
Total for other County Councils: 106 cases, valued at £1,351,316

Correctly recording fraud levels is a central element in assessing fraud risk.
It is best practice to record the financial value of each detected case

audit commission

Questions elected members and decision makers may wish to ask

DCLG funding	Local priorities	Partnerships	Using information and data
Did our council apply for a share of the £16 million challenge funding from DCLG? If successful, are we using the money effectively?	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?

Any questions?