

Protecting the Public Purse

Fraud Briefing 2014

Oxford City Council



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Agenda Item 6

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

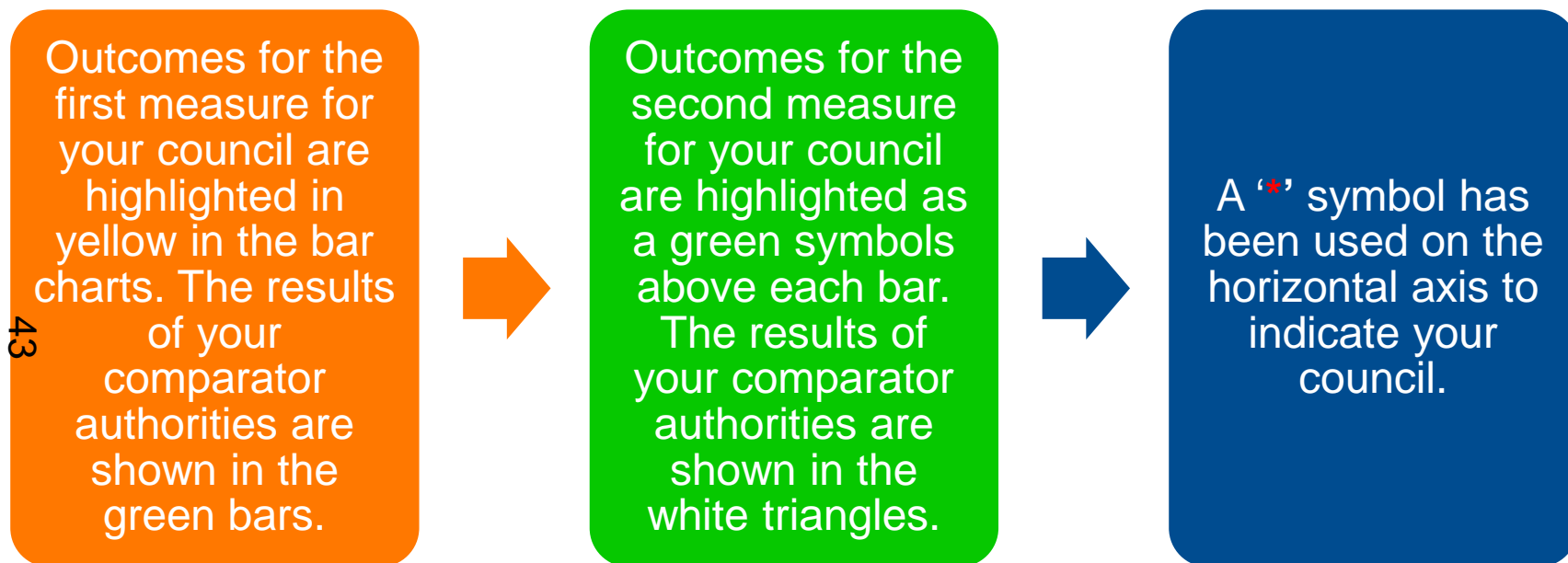


Give focus to discussing local and national fraud risks, reflect on local priorities and the proportionate responses needed



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

Understanding the bar charts



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.

Comparator group

Cambridge
Cheltenham
Cherwell
Colchester
Crawley
Dacorum
Exeter
Guildford
Northampton
Oxford
Preston
Runnymede
Rushmoor
South Oxfordshire
Vale of White Horse
Warwick
Watford
Welwyn Hatfield
West Oxfordshire
Wycombe

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*)

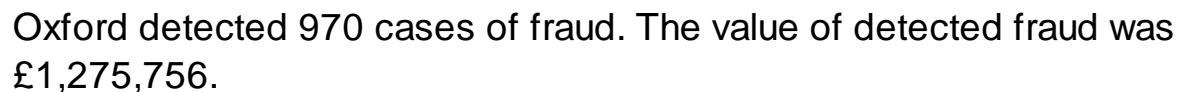


No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed (*Fraud will always be attempted and even with the best prevention measures some will succeed*)



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*)

Oxford

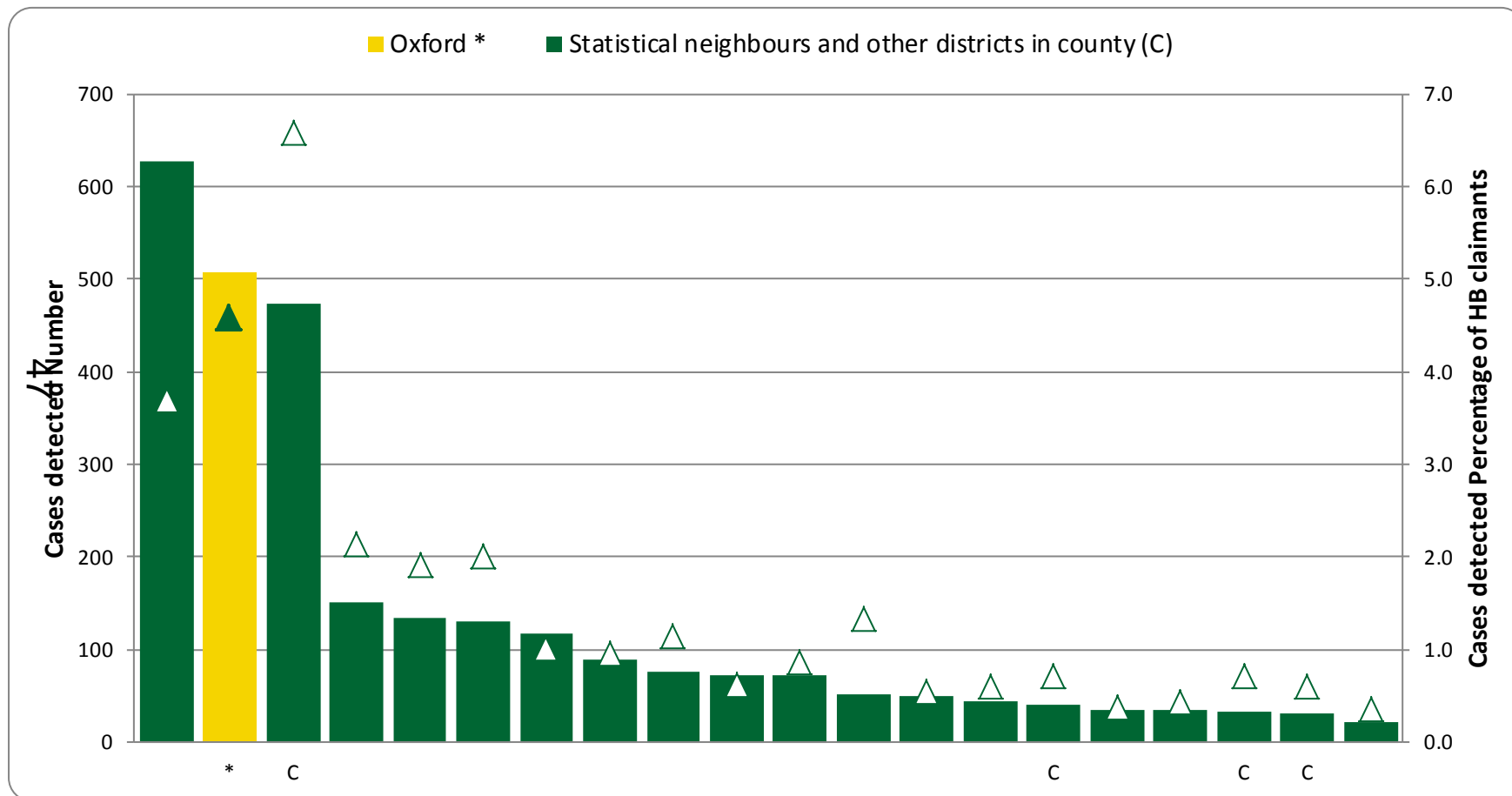


audit
commission

Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) 2013/14

Total detected cases, and as a proportion of housing benefit caseload

Oxford



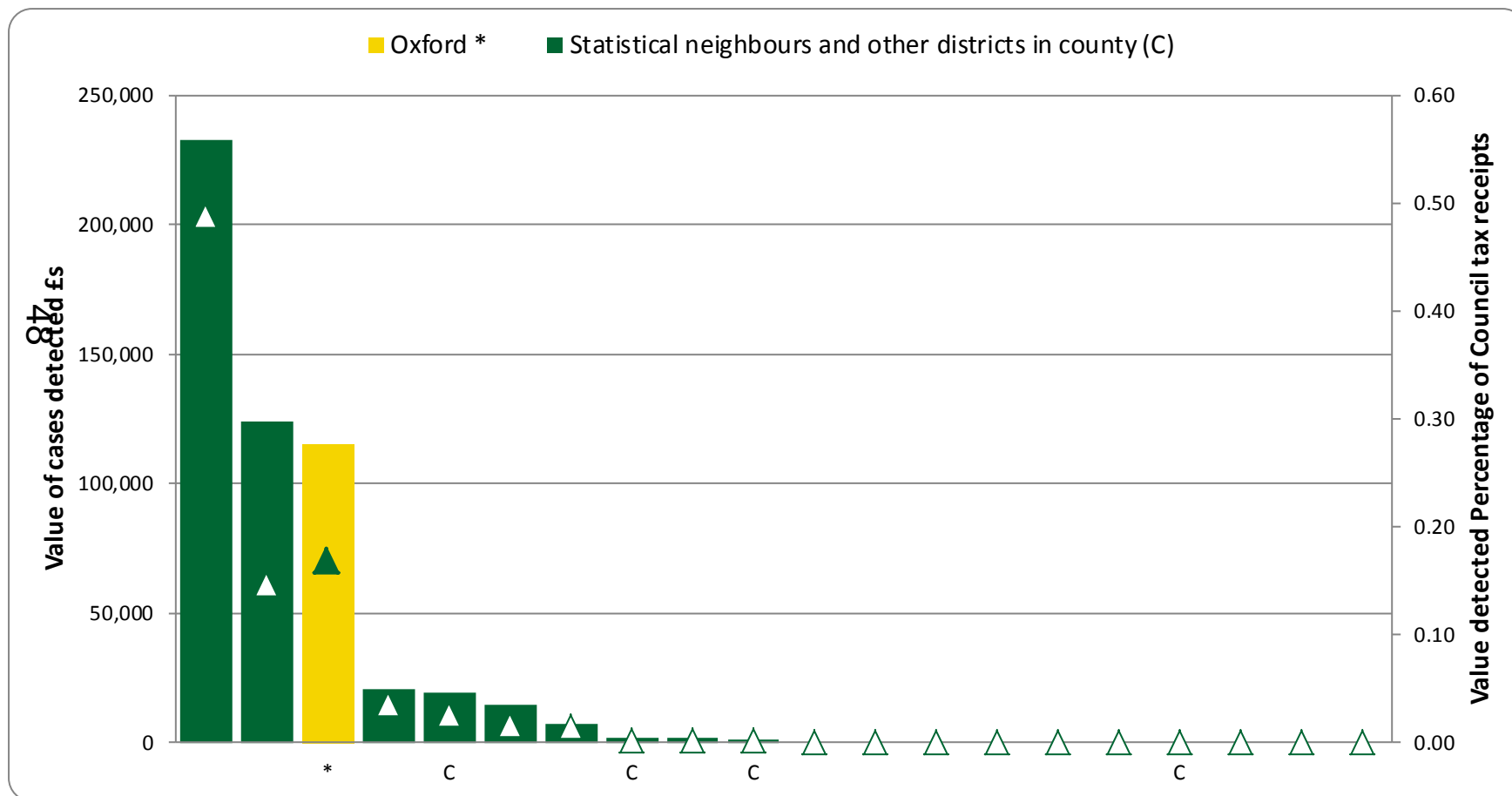
Oxford detected 508 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £619,297.

Average for statistical neighbours and county: 120 cases, valued at £236,385

Council tax discount fraud 2013/14

Total detected cases, and as a proportion of council tax income

Oxford



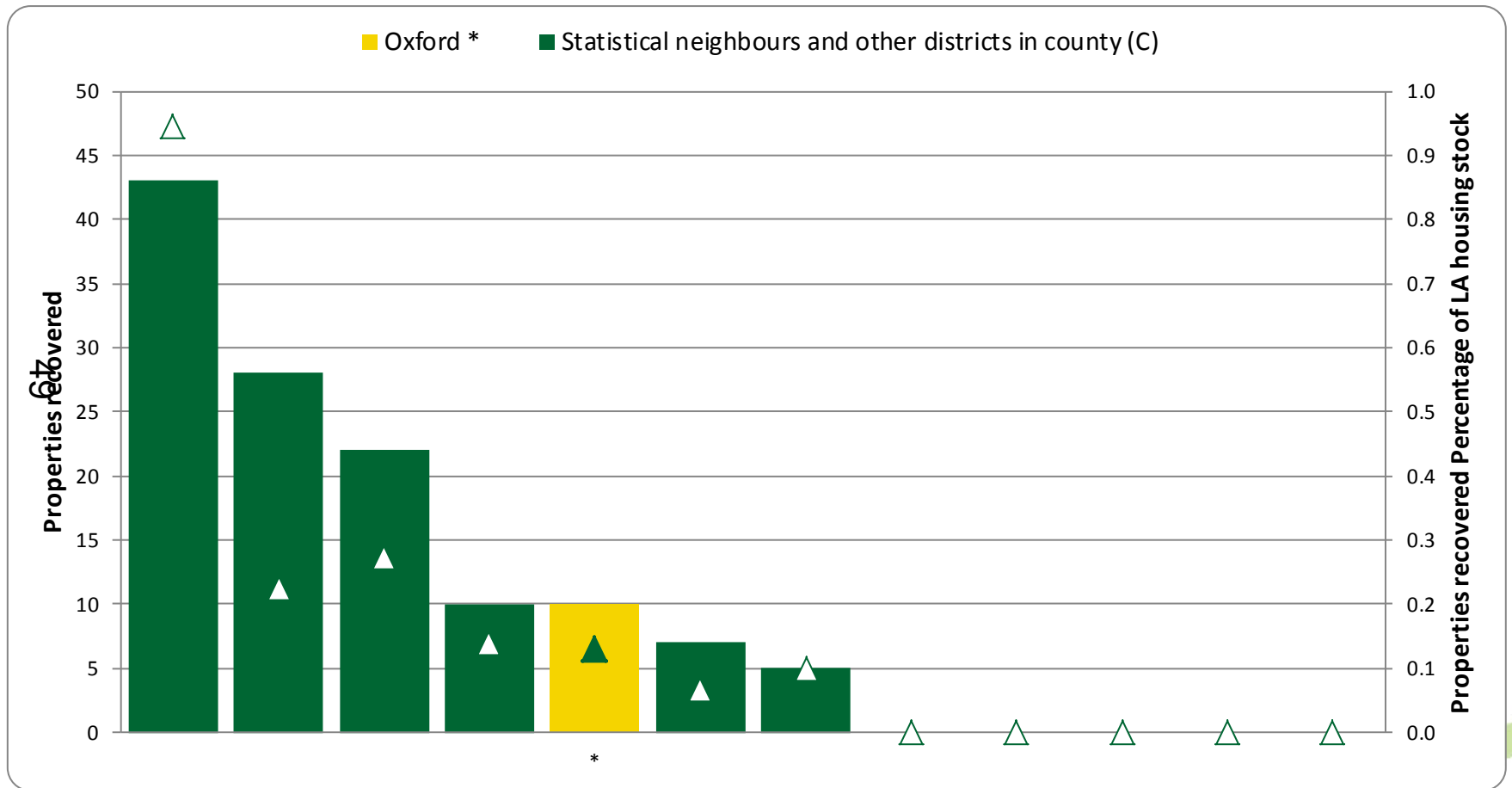
Oxford detected 283 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £115,218.

Average for statistical neighbours and county: 64 cases, valued at £22,250

Social Housing fraud (only councils with housing stock) 2013/14

Total properties recovered, and as a proportion of housing stock

Oxford



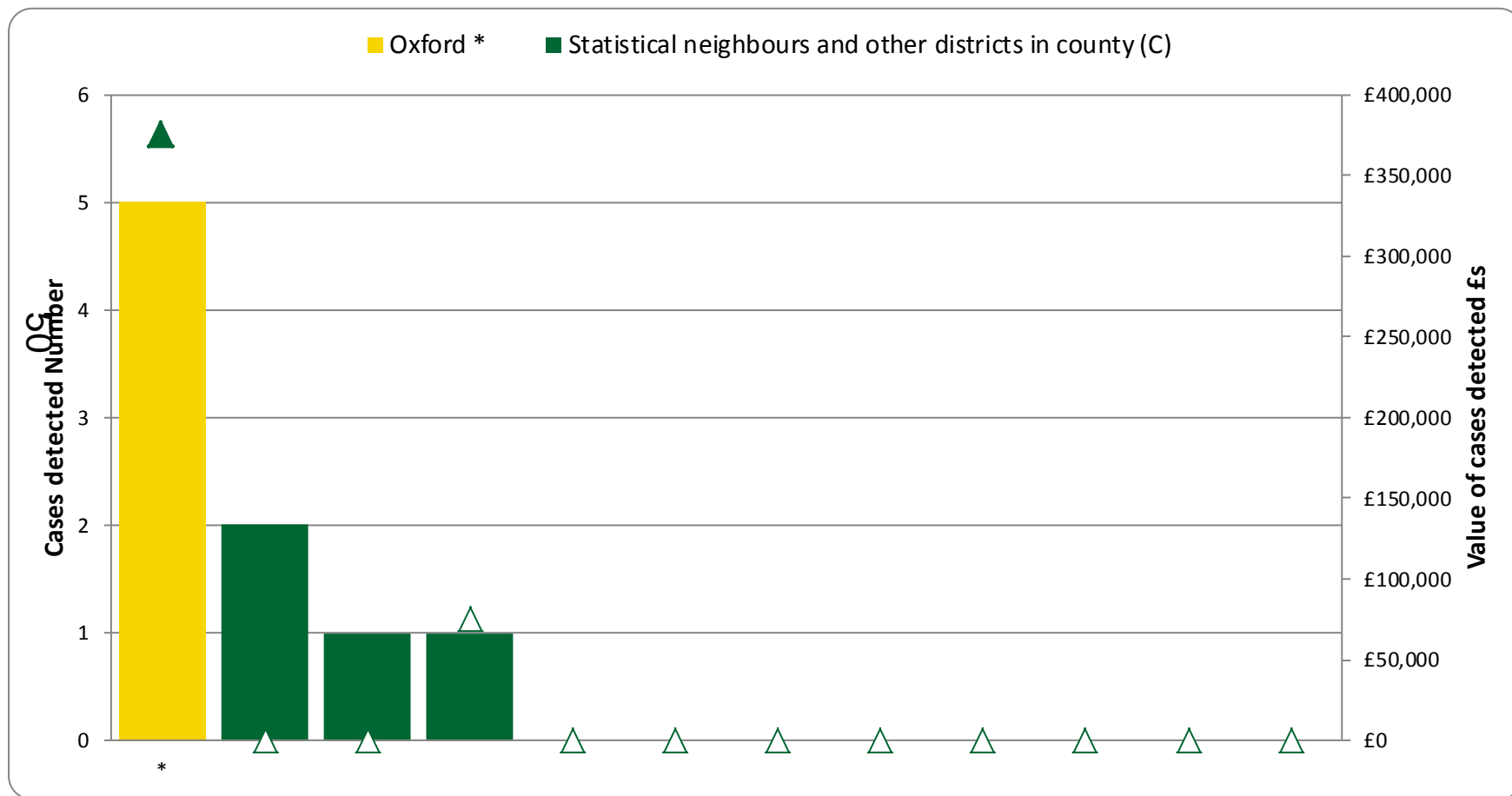
Oxford recovered 10 properties.

Average for statistical neighbours and county with housing stock: 10 cases

Right to buy fraud (only councils with housing stock) 2013/14

Right to buy cases and value

Oxford



Oxford detected 5 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £375,000.

Average for statistical neighbours and county with housing stock: 0.4 cases

Other frauds 2013/14

Oxford

Procurement: Oxford detected 1 case of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £36,000.

Total for statistical neighbours and county: 0 cases

Insurance: Oxford did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.

Total for statistical neighbours and county: 1 case, valued at £0

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Economic and third sector: Oxford did not detect any cases of this type of fraud.

Total for statistical neighbours and county: 5 cases, valued at £80,000

Internal: Oxford detected 3 cases of this type of fraud. The value of detected fraud was £9,050.

Total for statistical neighbours and county: 11 cases, valued at £7,970

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

Questions elected members and decision makers may wish to ask

Post SFIS

**Local
priorities**

Partnerships

**Using
information
and data**

Are our remaining counter-fraud resources and skill sets adequate after our benefit fraud investigators have left to join SFIS?

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?



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