

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Pension Fund Panel and Board
Date:	22 July 2016
Title:	Annual Internal Audit Report and Opinion 2015/16
Reference:	7675
Report From:	Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Pension Fund Panel and Board with the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of Pension Services' framework of risk management, internal control and governance for the year ending 31 March 2016.

2. Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report and Opinion

2.1. In accordance with 'proper practices' as defined in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2013, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written report reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control.

2.2. The Annual Report for 2015/16 (attached at Appendix 1) provides the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the system of internal control and summarises the audit work from which that opinion is derived for the year ending 31 March 2016.

2.3. The Pension Fund Panel's attention is drawn to the following points:

- Internal audit was compliant with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards during 2015/16;
- The revised internal audit plan for 2015/16 has been delivered;
- 'Substantial Assurance' can be placed on the County Council's (Pension Services') framework of governance, risk management and management control and audit testing has demonstrated controls to be working in practice; and

- Where internal audit work identified areas where management controls could be improved or where systems and laid down procedures were not fully followed, appropriate corrective actions and a timescale for improvement were agreed with the responsible managers.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1. That the Pension Fund Panel and Board accepts the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and opinion statement for 2015/16.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Maximising well-being:	no
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2013	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equality objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposals within this report

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The proposals in this report are not considered to have any direct impact on the prevention of crime, however internal audit work has provided to ensure that controls are in place to minimise the risk of fraud and corruption against the County Council.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No specific changes

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No specific proposals affecting adaption to climate change