

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Pension Fund Panel
Date:	09 July 2015
Title:	Internal Audit Report & Opinion 2014 - 15
Reference:	6801
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 with the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Pension Services framework of risk management, internal control and governance for the year ending 31 March 2015.

2. Chief Internal Auditors Annual Report and Opinion

2.1. The Pension Service Section, within Corporate Services are responsible for the day to day running of the Local Government Pension Scheme in Hampshire.

2.2. In accordance with proper internal audit practices, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written report reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control.

2.3. The Annual Report for 2014/15 (attached at Appendix 1) provides the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the system of internal control and summarises audit work from which that opinion is derived for the year ending 31 March 2015.

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

- Internal audit was compliant with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards during 2014/15;
- The revised internal audit plan for 2014/15 has been substantially 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(s)

- 3.1. That the Pension Fund Panel accepts the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and opinion statement for 2014/15

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	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
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 is planned 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 adaptation to climate change