

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Audit Committee
Date:	23 June 2016
Title:	Internal Audit Plan 2016 -17
Reference:	7583
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 Audit Committee with an overview of the Internal Audit Plan 2016 – 2017 (Appendix 1).

2. Contextual information

2.1. The aim of internal audit's work programme is to provide independent and objective assurance to management, in relation to the business activities, systems or processes under review that:

- The framework of internal control, risk management and governance is appropriate and operating effectively; and
- Risks to the achievement of the County Council's objectives are identified, assessed and managed to a defined acceptable level.

2.2. The Internal Audit Plan provides the mechanism through which the Chief Internal Auditor can ensure most appropriate use of internal audit resources to provide a clear statement of assurance on risk management, internal control and governance arrangements.

2.3. Internal audit focus should be proportionate and appropriately aligned, as such, only high and medium priority reviews are incorporated within the Internal Audit Plan.

2.4. All low priority review areas remain within the audit universe and are reassessed on an annual basis, however, will not be routinely incorporated in the planning process if continued to be assessed as a low priority.

2.5. The audit plan will remain fluid to ensure internal audits ability to react to the changing needs of the County Council

- 2.6. Other reviews, based on criteria other than risk, may also be built into the work plan. These may include 'mandatory' audits or reviews requested or commissioned by management. Any commissioned review must be able to clearly demonstrate a contribution to the audit opinion on risk management, control and governance

3. Finance / Performance

- 3.1. The internal audit team have adopted a matrix style approach to enable the delivery of the plan, by using a resource pool of multi disciplinary auditors capable of forming into teams as audit projects determine.
- 3.2. This approach will ensure seasonal peaks in demand can be effectively managed, an appropriate level of independence in the rotation of audit reviews and the avoidance of over reliance on individual areas of expertise.
- 3.3. Our 'internal audit charter' ensures the Chief Internal Auditor has sufficient resource necessary to fulfil the requirements and expectations to deliver an internal audit opinion.
- 3.4. Significant matters that jeopardise the delivery of the plan, or require changes to the plan are identified, addressed and reported to the Audit Committee.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Audit Plan 2016 – 17 has been developed to operate at a strategic level providing a value adding, and proportionate, level of assurance aligned to the County Council's objectives.
- 4.2. The endorsement and sponsorship of the plan at member / chief officer level will assist in providing the engagement and buy-in of staff at an operational level to ensure the outcome of audit reviews are optimised.

5. Recommendation(s)

- 5.1. That the Audit Committee is invited to comment on and approve the Audit Plan for 2016 – 2017.

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:	
‘Board’ approval of the Internal Audit Plan, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Internal Audit Charter	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u> 23 June 2016
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