

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Audit Committee
Date:	23 June 2016
Title:	Internal Audit Charter 2016-17
Reference:	7584
Report From:	Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services

Contact name: Neil Pitman

Tel: 01962 845139

Email: Neil.pitman@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to present the Internal Audit Charter 2016-17 to the Audit Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, as the governance group charged with independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of financial reporting.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 state:

‘a relevant body must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance’

2.2. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (attribute standard 1000) require that all internal audit activities maintain an ‘internal audit charter’.

2.3. The charter is a formal document that defines the internal audit activity’s purpose, authority and responsibility consistent with the Definition of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics and the Standards.

2.4. The internal audit charter establishes internal audits position within the organisation including:

- Recognising the mandatory nature of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards;
- Defining the scope of internal audit responsibilities;
- Establishing the responsibilities and objectives of internal audit;
- Establishing the organisational independence of internal audit;
- Establishing accountability and reporting lines (functional and administrative);
- Setting out the responsibilities of the board and the role of statutory officers with regard to internal audit;
- Arrangements that exist with regard anti fraud and anti corruption;
- Establishing internal audit rights of access;
- Defining the terms 'board' and 'senior management' for the purpose of internal audit; and
- Arrangements in place for avoiding conflicts of interest.

2.5. In accordance with the Standards the internal audit charter should be reviewed annually (minimum) and approved by senior management and the board.

3. Conclusion

3.1. The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards provide a framework for the internal audit activity to provide sound corporate governance, transparency and accountability.

3.2. The engagement of Senior Management and the Board is imperative in maximising the effectiveness of the internal audit activity and compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

3.3. The Internal Audit Charter provides a compliant framework defining the purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit activity.

4. Recommendation(s)

4.1. That the Audit Committee approve the Internal Audit Charter 2016-17

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:	
<p>There is a legislative requirement within the Local Audit & Accountability Act for a relevant body to 'undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance'.</p>	

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>
Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015		April 2015

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