

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Audit Committee
Date:	17 December 2020
Title:	Internal Audit Progress Report (November 2020)
Report From:	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

Contact name: Neil Pitman

Tel: 01962 845139

Email: Neil.pitman@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of internal audit activity against assurance work completed in accordance with the approved audit plan (2020-21) and to provide an overview of the outstanding management actions.

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Audit Committee notes the Internal Progress Report (November 2020) as attached (Appendix 1).
That the Audit Committee notes the External Quality Assessment Report – September 2020 as attached (Appendix 2).

Contextual Information

3. Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the Council is responsible for:
 - ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk; and
 - undertaking an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards and guidance.

4. In accordance with proper internal audit practices (Public Sector Internal Audit Standards), the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written status report to the Audit Committee, summarising:
 - The status of 'live' internal audit reports (outstanding management actions);
 - an update on progress against the annual audit plan;
 - a summary of internal audit performance, planning and resourcing issues; and
 - a summary of significant issues that may impact on the Chief Internal Auditor's annual opinion.

5. Appendix A summarises the activities of internal audit for the period up to November 2020.

6. As part of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards there is a requirement for internal audit to be externally assessed by an independent assessment team every 5 years to ensure conformance with the International Professional Practices Framework, Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the Local Government Application Note.

7. Appendix B provides a copy of the external assessor's report and conclusions following their assessment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership in September 2020

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	no
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because: 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>	<u>Date</u>
Internal Audit Charter	23 July 2020
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

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

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

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

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