

	Item no: 9
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SUBJECT:	INTERNAL AUDIT: STATUS OF WORK1 ST APRIL - 31 ST DECEMBER 2006
DECISION-MAKER:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE OF DECISION:	8 TH FEBRUARY 2007
REPORT VERSION No:	1.0

FORWARD PLAN No: N/A

KEY DECISION? NO

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

None

SUMMARY

Under the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006, 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
- maintaining an adequate and effective system of Internal Audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper internal audit practices.

In accordance with proper internal audit practices and the Internal Audit Strategy, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written status report to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis, summarising:

- progress in implementing the audit plan;
- internal audit reviews in progress;
- audit opinion on all internal audit reviews completed since the last report and executive summaries of published reports where critical weaknesses or unacceptable levels of risk were identified;
- the status of 'live' reports, i.e. those where internal audit work is completed and actions are planned to improve the framework of governance, risk management and management control; and
- internal audit reviews closed since the last report.

As this is the first report to this Audit Committee, the appendix summarises the

activities of internal audit for the period 1st April – 31st December 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Audit Committee notes the Internal Audit Status of Work report for 1st April – 31st December 2006 as attached.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In accordance with proper internal audit practices and the Internal Audit Strategy, the Audit Committee is required to receive the Chief Internal Auditor's status report.

BACKGROUND

2. Under the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006, the Council is required to 'maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control'. The standards for 'proper practices' in relation to internal audit are laid down in CIPFA's Code of Practice for Internal Audit in the United Kingdom (currently under review).
3. The Internal Audit Strategy requires that the Chief Internal Auditor provides a regular status report to the Audit Committee, summarising the internal audit work carried out in the period.

CONSULTATION

None

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No alternative options have been considered.

DETAIL

4. The status report for the period 1st April 2006 to 31st December 2006 is attached for consideration in the appendix.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

None

Revenue

None

Property

None

Other

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 require the Council to 'maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control'.

Other Legal Implications:

None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Internal Audit: Status of Work Report 1 st April – 31 st December 2006
2.	

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
2.	

Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

1.	None	
2.		

Background documents available for inspection at: Internal Audit Office, North
Block Basement, Civic Centre

REPORT OF: Chief Internal Auditor

AUTHOR: Name: Sarah Dennis Tel: 023 8083 4255

E-mail: Sarah.l.dennis@southampton.gov.uk

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