

AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 JUNE 2015

ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND OPINION 2014 - 2015

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SOUTHERN INTERNAL AUDIT PARTNERSHIP

Contact Officer: Neil Pitman Tel No: 01962 845139 Email:
neil.pitman@hants.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

AUD082 - Internal Audit Plan 2014-15

AUD089 - Internal Audit Report and Opinion 2013-14

AUD097 - Internal Audit Progress Report 2014-15 – May 2014

AUD098 - Internal Audit Progress Report 2014-15 – September 2014

AUD107 - Internal Audit Progress Report 2014-15 – December 2014

AUD110 - Internal Audit Progress Report 2014-15 – March 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Audit Committee with the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of risk management, internal control and governance for 2014 – 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1 The Audit Committee approve the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and opinion for 2014 -2015 attached as Appendix 1.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Audit Committee with the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of risk management, internal control and governance for 2014–15.

2 Summary

2.1 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 to inform the production of the Annual Governance Statement.

2.2 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 the audit work from which that opinion is derived for the year ending 31 March 2015.

2.3 The Audit Committee'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;
- The Council's framework of governance, risk management and management control is considered to be 'Adequate' 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.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

3 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 3.1 Internal audit plays a vital role in helping the organisation accomplish its objectives, strategies and change plans by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 None directly from this report.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 5.1 The audit needs assessment follows a risk based audit approach taking cognisance of the Council's risk register.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Annual Internal Audit Report and Opinion 2014 - 2015.

Annual Internal Audit Report & Opinion

2014 - 15

Winchester City Council



Southern Internal Audit Partnership

Assurance through excellence
and innovation

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1. Role of Internal Audit

The requirement for an internal audit function in local government is detailed within the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which states that 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.’

The standards for ‘proper practices’ in relation to internal audit are laid down in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2013 [the Standards].

The role of internal audit is best summarised through its definition within the Standards, as an:

‘Independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisations operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes’.

The Council is responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate risk management processes, control systems, accounting records and governance arrangements. Internal audit plays a vital role in advising the Council that these arrangements are in place and operating effectively.

The Council’s response to internal audit activity should lead to the strengthening of the control environment and, therefore, contribute to the achievement of the organisations objectives.

2. Internal Audit Approach

To enable effective outcomes, internal audit provide a combination of assurance and consulting activities. Assurance work involves assessing how well the systems and processes are designed and working, with consulting activities available to help to improve those systems and processes where necessary.

A full range of internal audit services is provided in forming the annual opinion.

The approach to each review is determined by the Head of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership and will depend on the:

- level of assurance required;
- significance of the objectives under review to the organisations success;
- risks inherent in the achievement of objectives; and
- level of confidence required that controls are well designed and operating as intended.

All formal internal audit assignments will result in a published report. The primary purpose of the audit report is to provide an independent and objective opinion to the Council on the framework of internal control, risk management and governance in operation and to stimulate improvement.



3. Internal Audit Opinion

The Head of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership is responsible for the delivery of an annual audit opinion and report that can be used by the Council to inform its governance statement. The annual opinion concludes on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control.

In giving this opinion, assurance can never be absolute and therefore, only reasonable assurance can be provided that there are no major weaknesses in the processes reviewed. In assessing the level of assurance to be given, I have based my opinion on:

- written reports on all internal audit work completed during the course of the year (assurance & consultancy);
- results of any follow up exercises undertaken in respect of previous years' internal audit work;
- the results of work of other review bodies where appropriate;
- the extent of resources available to deliver the internal audit work;
- the quality and performance of the internal audit service and the extent of compliance with the Standards; and
- the proportion of Winchester City Council's audit need that has been covered within the period.

Audit Opinion

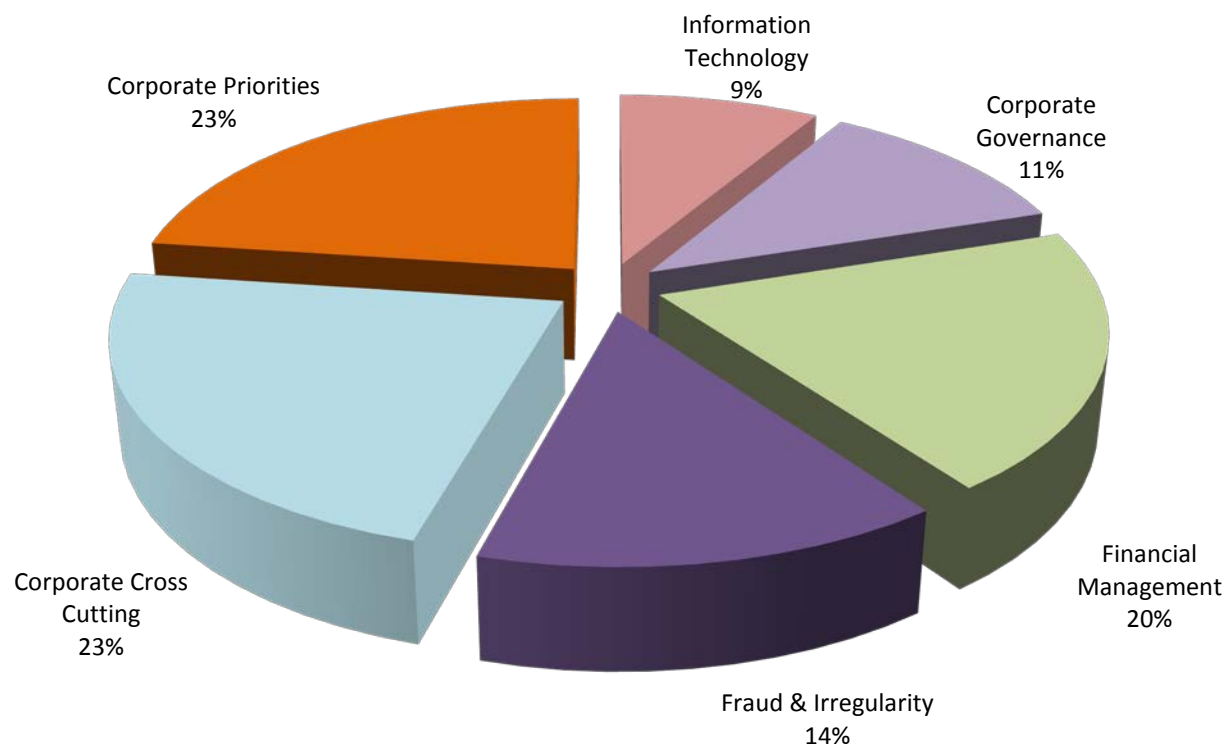
I am satisfied that sufficient assurance work has been carried out to allow me to form a reasonable conclusion on the adequacy and effectiveness of Winchester City Council's internal control environment.

In my opinion, Winchester City Council's framework of governance, risk management and management control is 'Adequate' and audit testing has demonstrated controls to be working in practice.

Where weaknesses have been identified through internal audit review, we have worked with management to agree appropriate corrective actions and a timescale for improvement.

4. Internal Audit Coverage and Output

The annual internal audit plan was prepared to take account of the characteristics and relative risks of the Council’s activities and to support the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.



Work has been planned and performed so as to obtain sufficient information and explanation considered necessary in order to provide evidence to give reasonable assurance that the internal control system is operating effectively.

The 2014-15 Internal audit plan, approved by the Audit Committee, 11 March 2014, was informed by internal audits own assessment of risk and materiality in addition to consultation with management to ensure it aligned to key risks facing the organisation.

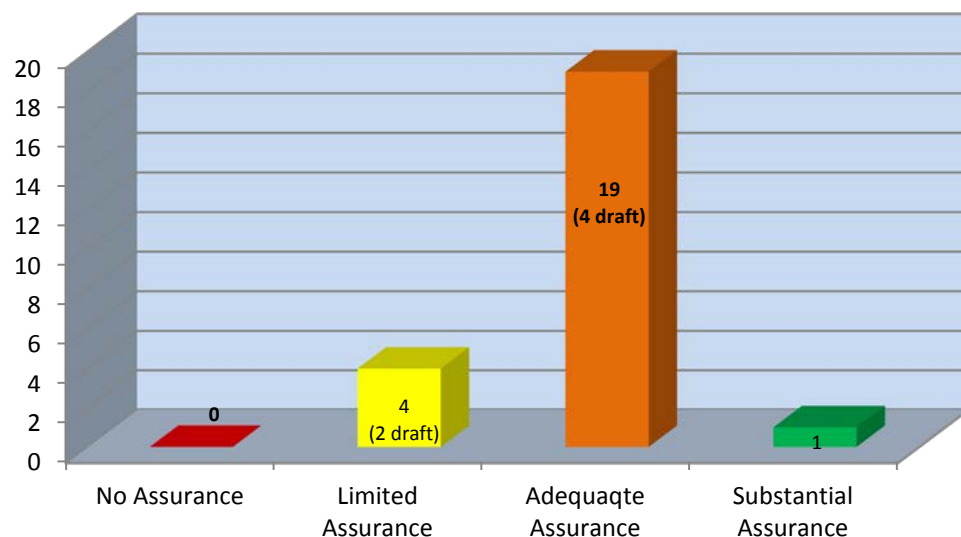
The plan has remained fluid throughout the year to maintain an effective focus.

The Southern Internal Audit Partnership delivered 35 review areas over the course of the year ending 31 March 2015 including the completion of carry forward reviews.

The revised 2014-15 internal audit plan has been delivered with the following exceptions:

- Work is substantially complete and an opinion has been formed for six reviews, however, the final reports have not yet been agreed with management;
- Fieldwork has been completed for two reviews (Absence Management and Asset Management) however draft reports and opinions have not been agreed due to management availability.

I do not consider these exceptions to have an adverse impact on the delivery of my overall opinion for the period. The opinion assigned to each internal audit review on issue (including draft reports) is defined as follows:



Substantial - A sound framework of internal control is in place and operating effectively. No risks to the achievement of system objectives have been identified;

Adequate - Basically a sound framework of internal control with opportunities to improve controls and / or compliance with the control framework. No significant risks to the achievement of system objectives have been identified;

Limited - Significant weakness (es) identified in the framework of internal control and / or compliance with the control framework which could place the achievement of system objectives at risk; or

No - Fundamental weaknesses identified in the framework of internal control or the framework is ineffective or absent with significant risk to the achievement of system objectives.

*9 reviews did not culminate in an audit opinion as they relate to work conducted in respect of consultancy, assurance mapping or fraud & irregularity investigations/pro-active fraud work

5. Significant Issues Arising

Contract management

- This review focused on the Council's contract monitoring arrangements in respect of River Park and Meadowside Leisure Centres.
- Observations identified a number of issues over the strength and effectiveness of the monitoring of the contract.
- Income due from the contractor is subject to an income sharing arrangement initiated when a pre-defined threshold is reached, as specified in the contract. Based upon information received from the contractor such payment has not been triggered since 2009. From testing undertaken, concerns were raised that the Council were not undertaking sufficient integrity checks on the income figures supplied by the contractor.
- There is no formal escalation policy in place, to ensure prompt action to address reports of repairs & maintenance and to prevent continued deterioration, placing the timely resolution of works at risk and an absence of awareness with senior managers.

Housing options

- This review focussed on the allocation and monitoring of loan payments. At the present time, there is no formal debt recovery policy or procedures in place.
- For five of the nine cases tested, there was no evidence of an independent review of the approval of the loan. In one case, there was no independent evidence from the landlord of the deposit and rental amounts, and for two cases there was no evidence to support the landlord eligibility checks for energy. In two cases, the monthly loan payments paid differed to the amount that had been agreed to be paid, and we found one tenant who has two loans, neither of which is being repaid.

6. Anti Fraud and Corruption

The Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, probity and accountability and recognises that the electorate need to have confidence in those that are responsible for the delivery of services. A fraudulent or corrupt act can impact on public confidence in the Council and damage both its reputation and image. Policies and strategies are in place setting out the Council's approach and commitment to the prevention and detection of fraud or corruption.

The Council continues to conform to the requirements of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). The NFI matches data from 1,300 public sector and 77 private sector organisations, including audit bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, government departments and other agencies. It flags up inconsistencies in the information analysed that indicate a fraud, an error or an overpayment may have taken place, signalling the need for review and potential investigation. The Cabinet Office assumed responsibility for the National Fraud Initiative following the demise of the Audit Commission in March 2015.

As part of the 2014/15 NFI exercise the Council submitted required data sets in October 2014 receiving feedback on potential matches in February / March 2015 (as detailed opposite). Work will be carried out during 2015-16 to review identified 'recommended matches' for fraudulent activity.

Dataset	Recommended Matches
Housing Benefit	199
Payroll	2
Housing Tenants	36
Right to Buy	0
Blue Badge	0
Concessionary Travel	0
Residential Parking	12
Insurance	0
Personal Budgets	0
Creditors	173
VAT	25
Total	447

In addition, we have assessed and where appropriate, advised, investigated or supported the investigation of any allegations of fraud, corruption or improper practice. In accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014 the details of internal audit's involvement in counter fraud work is summarised below:

Local Government Transparency Code 2014	01.04.14 – 31.03.15
Part 2 Requirements - Fraud	
Number of occasions powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers have been used	Nil
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud	2 fte*
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists	3 fte*
Total amount of time spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud	10 days*
Total number of fraud cases investigated	0**

*relates to internal audit staff across the wider SIAP only (does not include other areas of the Council that may affect reported figures i.e. legal, HR, Trading Standards, departmental investigating officers, housing benefits etc.)

**the definition of fraud is as set out by the Audit Commission in *Protecting the Public Purse* - 'the intentional false representation, including failure to declare information or abuse of position that is carried out to make gain, cause loss or expose another to the risk of loss.'

Fraud Grant Funding

The DCLG have made available £16m to assist Councils in developing innovative and holistic initiatives to tackle the fight against fraud.

During 2014 local authorities were invited to submit proposals for funding that would result in real financial savings through effective counter fraud activities. A successful bid from the Southern Internal Audit Partnership resulted in funding of £72,000 being awarded to support initiatives in respect of fraud detection and prevention.

Funding acquired will contribute to the development of a generic fraud risk assessment framework to inform and educate of key fraud risks. This assessment will inform a programme of proactive fraud initiatives moving forward, targeting demonstrably high risk areas.

This will be supported by the use of data analytics to more strategically analyse higher risk areas in the identification and investigation of data giving rise to irregular activity or conflicts with other sources of information.

The legacy from funding will strengthen measures for both fraud detection and prevention through provision of a clear understanding and assessment of fraud threats and the establishment of data analytics as preventative measures to combat fraud through the real time sharing and matching of data and fraud intelligence.

7. Quality Assurance and Improvement

The Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP) is a requirement within ‘the Standards’.

The Standards require the Head of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership to develop and maintain a QAIP to enable the internal audit service to be assessed against ‘the Standards’ and the Local Government Application Note (LGAN) for conformance.

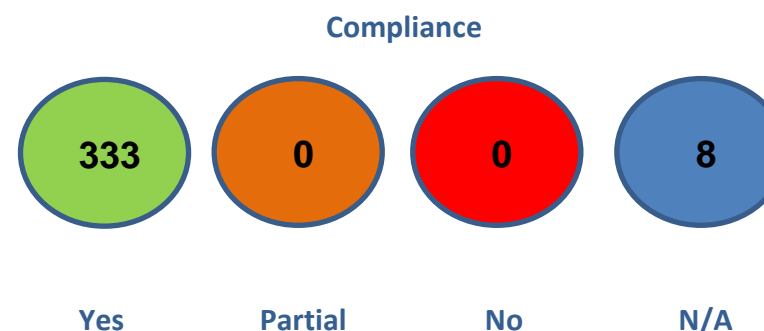
The QAIP must include both internal and external assessments: internal assessments are both on-going and periodical and external assessment must be undertaken at least once every five years.

In addition to evaluating compliance with the Standards, the QAIP also assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal audit activity, identifying areas for improvement.

The Standards stipulate that ‘internal assessments’ should be undertaken as a self-assessment or by other persons within the organisation with sufficient knowledge of internal audit processes.

During 2014 – 15 The Head of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership undertook a self-assessment against the Standards and the LGAN.

An external assessment is to be undertaken by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) in September 2015. In accordance with the Internal Audit Charter, outcomes of the external assessment will be reported to Audit Committee (December 2015).



8. Disclosure of Non-Conformance

‘It is my opinion that in all material respects the Southern Internal Audit Partnership conforms to the, Definition of Internal Auditing; the Code of Ethics; and the Standards’

Whilst the Standards only require non-conformance to be disclosed when it impacts the overall scope or operation of the internal audit activity, the additional requirements for the public sector state *‘that all instances of non-conformance and progress against improvement plans must be reported in the annual report’*. The QAIP Action Plan is provided at Appendix A.




9. Quality control

Our aim is to provide a service that remains responsive to the needs of the Council and maintains consistently high standards. In complementing the QAIP this was achieved in 2014-15 through the following internal processes:

- On-going liaison with management to ascertain the risk management, control and governance arrangements, key to corporate success;
- On-going development of a constructive working relationship with the External Auditors to maintain a cooperative assurance approach;
- A tailored audit approach using a defined methodology and assignment control documentation;
- Registration under British Standard BS EN ISO 9001:2008, the international quality management standard complimented by a comprehensive set of audit and management procedures; and
- Review and quality control of all internal audit work by professional qualified senior staff members.

10. Internal Audit Performance

The following performance indicators are maintained to monitor effective service delivery:

Annual performance indicators			
Aspect of service	2013-14 Actual (%)		2014-15 Actual (%)
Revised plan delivered (including 2013/14 c/f)	91		94*
Positive customer responses to quality appraisal questionnaire	100		95**
Compliant with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards	Yes		Yes

*attributable to two reviews where the draft report and opinion have been issued but factual accuracy has not been agreed due to management availability.

** Customer satisfaction has been assessed through response to questionnaires issued to a wide range of stakeholders including the Governance and Audit Committee Chairman, the Executive Board and key contacts.

11. Acknowledgement

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff throughout Winchester City Council with whom we have made contact in the year. Our relationship has been positive and management were responsive to the comments we made both informally and through our formal reporting.

Neil Pitman
Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership
June 2015

Appendix A – Quality Assessment & Improvement Action Plan

Compliance against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards / Local Government Application Note

**Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards
Action Plan – Not Applicable**

Standard	Compliant	Comment	Action	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date
3.2 - Independence and Objectivity					
Does the board: e) approve decisions relating to the appointment and removal of the CAE.	N/A	Such actions are not constitutionally permissible to be undertaken by the board (Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001).	To continue to follow existing Council Standing Orders and procedures in the appointment and dismissal of the Chief Internal Auditor	-	-
Have any instances been discovered where an internal auditor has used information obtained during the course of duties for personal gain?	N/A	There have been no known instances where an internal auditor has used information for personal gain.	-	-	-
If there has been any real or apparent impairment of independence or objectivity, has this been disclosed to appropriate parties (depending on the nature of the impairment and the relationship between the CAE and senior management/the board as set out in the internal audit charter)?	N/A	There have been no known instances of real or apparent impairment of independence or objectivity.	-	-	-
If there have been any assurance engagements in areas over which the CAE also has operational responsibility, have these engagements been overseen by someone outside of the internal audit activity?	N/A	The Chief Internal Auditor has no operational responsibilities outside of the internal audit function.	-	-	-

4.1 - Managing the Internal Audit Activity					
Where an external internal audit service provider acts as the internal audit activity, does that provider ensure that the organisation is aware that the responsibility for maintaining and effective internal audit activity remains with the organisation?	N/A	Internal audit is not provided by an external service provider.	-	-	-
4.5 - Communicating Results					
Where any non-conformance with the PSIAS has impacted on a specific engagement, do the communication of the results disclose the following:					
a) The principle or rule of conduct of the <i>Code of Ethics</i> or <i>Standard(s)</i> with which full conformance was not achieved?	N/A	Occasion has not arisen whereby non-conformance with PSIAS has impacted on an engagement.	-	-	-
b) The reason(s) for non-conformance?	N/A	Occasion has not arisen whereby non-conformance with PSIAS has impacted on an engagement.	-	-	-
c) The impact of non-conformance on the engagement and the engagement results?	N/A	Occasion has not arisen whereby non-conformance with PSIAS has impacted on an engagement.	-	-	-

Opportunities for Improvement - Section briefing– 3 March 2014

Improvement opportunities:	Suggested actions:	Responsible Officer	Implementation
<p>Communication</p> <p>With additional organisations joining the Partnership, the transient nature of audit staff, flexible working options and the fluidity of planning to meet the needs of the client, it is considered that current channels of communication should be enhanced to compliment changing working practices.</p>	<p>Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership to attend Audit Services Management Team (ASMT) monthly to capture key messages from the team.</p> <p>A monthly email to be circulated to all staff with the key messages (corporate and local).</p> <p>To ensure all relevant staff are notified with any plan changes (ASMT to be copied in on email(s) due to potential impact on other workloads).</p>	<p>Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership</p> <p>Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership</p> <p>All of ASMT</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>MKI</p> <p>Limitations within Morgan Kai Insight (MKI) the partnerships audit management software, prior to the recent upgrade have required a number of workarounds questioning the effectiveness and efficiency of the system. Additionally attaining relevant management information is a cumbersome and timely process.</p>	<p>MKI are currently developing a progress report that will replace the progress control sheet. This will make the monitoring of audits for all staff much easier.</p> <p>Looking to change the hosting of MKI back to the vendor rather than internal. This will resolve the live mobile issues.</p> <p>Once the progress report has been developed, we will ask MKI to develop automated audit reports/outlines and facility to track management actions.</p> <p>Staff to be reminded on the level of scanning needed. We don't need every single document</p>	<p>LE / MKI</p> <p>LE / MKI</p> <p>LE / MKI</p> <p>All staff</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>AO's now automated and MKI being utilised to track management action. Automated audit reports currently under review.</p> <p>Complete</p>

Improvement opportunities:	Suggested actions:	Responsible Officer	Implementation
	<p>scanned.</p> <p>Should the scanner in room 241 be out of action, an alternative device is available in room 321.</p>		
<p>Travel</p> <p>Clarity required with regard travel entitlements in light of the expansion of the Partnership.</p>	<p>To introduce a travel policy for the Partnership.</p>	<p>Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership</p>	<p>Outstanding – to be actioned by December 2015</p>
<p>Manager review</p> <p>Quality standards require manager and senior manager sign off of all reports with Limited and No assurance reports cleared by the Head of Partnership. Does this remain practicable in light of the extension of the Partnership.</p>	<p>Quality standards will not be compromised. To review the current reporting protocol and timescales for practicalities.</p>	<p>Senior Management Team</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need more scope / background reasons for inclusion in the plan ○ Need more involvement of staff in the annual planning process. 	<p>This has been rectified in the 2014/15 plans.</p>	<p>Audit Services Management Team / Senior Management Team</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Allocation of audit</p> <p>Is the allocation of audit assignments effective. Are we maximising individuals knowledge and experience.</p>	<p>Matrix working is in place across the Partnership to ensure that we maintain flexibility to apportion relevant experience at all times.</p> <p>Not looking to develop “experts” with the notable exceptions of IT, Fraud and Procurement / Contract Management.</p>		

Improvement opportunities:	Suggested actions:	Responsible Officer	Implementation
	Any training needs to be raised with relevant managers	All staff	on-going
IT –connectivity at one satellite site remains restrictive.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership to liaise with relevant S151 to effect a long term solution.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Complete
<p>Auditees</p> <p>There are increasing incidences where the duration of audit assignments are prolonged due to client availability both in terms of fieldwork and report clearance. Significant delays in issuing reports can impact on relevance and reflect poorly on the audit service.</p>	<p>Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership to raise with (Corporate Management Team)CMT’s as a general discussion about the impact of delays etc.</p> <p>Formalise an escalation policy.</p> <p>Need to ensure any delays are escalated to the relevant Audit Manager / SMT member promptly.</p> <p>Report template to include timeline.</p>	<p>Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership</p> <p>Senior Management Team</p> <p>All staff / ASMT</p> <p>To align with automated reports from MKI</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Information extraction</p> <p>The addition of new partners coupled with the matrix management approach introduces challenges in maintaining a working knowledge of all applications and systems across the Partnership.</p>	<p>Look at system training needs across the section and determine who needs what training. (in- house or provided elsewhere.)</p> <p>Identify staff with specific knowledge as contacts for key systems to provide internal training.</p>	<p>ASMT</p> <p>Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Outstanding - A knowledge database is being created detailing qualifications</p>

Improvement opportunities:	Suggested actions:	Responsible Officer	Implementation
	For sites with restricted access to systems consider including a more specific list of required reports etc. in the Audit Outline (AO).	AMs	and experience to better effect assignment of audits Outstanding – require a greater emphasis on requesting desired information / reports as part of the AO
<p>Working in silos</p> <p>Look for opportunities for team building – socials, group work etc.</p>	<p>To ensure section briefings include more opportunities for group work.</p> <p>To arrange regular social events outside of work.</p>	<p>Deputy Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership</p> <p>NJ</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>on-going</p>

Opportunities for Improvement – Staff Away Day (Celebrating Success) - Branding – September 2014

Improvement opportunities:	Suggested actions:	Responsible Officer	Implementation
To acquire a SIAP email addresses to replace the existing hants.gov.uk and prevent confusion / ambiguity with partners and sold service clients regarding who we are.	To seek advice from IT to determine if a SIAP email address is a possibility and if so the costs, impacts etc. of pursuing such an option.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Outstanding to be actioned by December 2015
To explore the potential of branded stationery / lanyards to present a sense of professionalism and identity when out on site.	Seek the cost of branded stationery and lanyards. Considered more appropriate and cost effective to acquire folders rather than branded working papers / pens etc.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Complete
To provide a consistency in answering the telephone so partners and sold service clients are clear who they are speaking to and to reinforce the Partnership brand.	All to answer to phone... <i>'good morning southern internal audit Partnership x speaking'</i>	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Complete
Staff to receive regular updates highlighting Partnership issues.	To retain quarterly staff briefings supplemented by the Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership issuing newsletters in between briefings should significant issues arise.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Complete
For staff to hold and issue as necessary business cards to prospective clients or for a point of contact for existing partners / clients.	The cost of producing business cards for all members of the team was considered disproportionate to the potential benefits to be gained. We will however, look to consider producing an in-house template for local printing and issue should the need arise.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Outstanding to be actioned by September 2015

Opportunities for Improvement – Internal Audit Surveys – March 2015

Improvement opportunities:	Suggested actions:	Responsible Officer	Implementation
To acquire and enhance to use of Computer Aided Audit Techniques (CAATs) across the Partnership.	Whilst Excel spread sheets are used extensively across the Partnership for the purposes of review, analysis, sampling, filtering, producing formula for test checking etc. there are no other specific CAAT's used. The successful bid for Central Government grant funding has enabled us to explore CAATs further and we will be procuring a data analytical software package to support the delivery of outcomes of that initiative and also to benefit the wider Partnership through mainstream audit use. It is intended that we will acquire the 'Idea' software.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Outstanding to be actioned by September 2015
To enhance our cultural awareness of two of our existing key stakeholder partners.	For the Strategic Lead for the key stakeholder partners to attend future cultural development workshops.	Group Audit Manager	Complete
To better disseminate examples of good practice when undertaking audit assignments from experiences witnessed across the wider Partnership.	To incorporate an 'added value' section to the standard report template to prompt managers for the relevant portfolios to think of like services provided across the wider Partnership cohort and highlight any examples of exemplar practice that may benefit the audit client.	Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership	Outstanding to be actioned by December 2015