

ITEM NO: 8

DECISION-MAKER:	AUDIT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	INTERNAL AUDIT: REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY 2007 - 2011		
DATE OF DECISION:	27 TH SEPTEMBER 2007		
REPORT OF:	CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOT APPLICABLE

SUMMARY

The current Internal Audit Strategy was approved by the Standards and Governance Committee on 25th September 2006. Overall, the strategy provides a sound basis for the provision of the internal audit function within the Council, however, some amendments are required to ensure the service can be appropriately planned and delivered in accordance with the revised CIPFA *Code of practice for internal audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom (2006)*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Audit Committee approves the revised Internal Audit Strategy 2007 – 2011 as attached.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In accordance with proper internal audit practices and its terms of reference, the Audit Committee is required to formally approve the Internal Audit Strategy.

CONSULTATION

2. The strategy has been revised by the Chief Internal Auditor in consultation with the Internal Audit, Risk and Assurance service management team, the Executive Director of Resources and the Audit Commission.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None

DETAIL

4. The existing strategy has been revised to reflect:
 - the requirements of the revised CIPFA *Code of practice for internal audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom (2006)*;
 - current good practice in the risk-based approach to audit planning and delivery;
 - the adoption of a best practice audit risk model in the appraisal of the audit universe;
 - the introduction of the Audit Committee to the Council; and

- the requirements of the revised CIPFA/SOLACE guidance on *Delivering good governance in Local Government (2007)*.
5. The revised Internal Audit Strategy 2007 – 2011 is attached for consideration in the appendix. Key amendments have been highlighted.

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 Strategy 2007-2011 (revised)
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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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	
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Background documents available for inspection at: Internal Audit Office, North Block
Basement, Civic Centre

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

FORWARD PLAN No:

N/A

KEY DECISION?

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WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:
