

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 15

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Audit & Assurance Annual Report and Opinion 2007/08		
Date of Meeting:	26th June 2008		
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name: Ian Withers	Tel: 29-1323	
	E-mail: ian.withers@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This purpose of the this report is to present to Members of the Audit Committee, summarises the internal audit activity for 2007/08 and based on this, an assurance opinion on the internal control environment. The full Annual Report and Opinion is provided at Appendix 1 and includes:

- Opinion on the City Council's internal control environment
- Internal audit coverage and output
- Annual internal audit performance 2007/08

1.2 The opinion contributed to the annual review of governance arrangements required by the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2006.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) To note the internal audit activity and opinion on the control environment for 2007/08.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 The CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government 2006 (CIPFA) requires the Head of Audit & Assurance to deliver an Annual Report and Opinion to the City Council.

3.2 The background is contained within the Annual Report at Appendix 1.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 A draft copy of the Annual Report and Opinion has been provided to the Chief Executive and Directors.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

There is no direct financial implications arising from this report

5.2 Legal Implications:

Internal audit as provided by Audit & Assurance Services is a statutory requirement of the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003. Assurance is also provided to the Director of Finance & Property as Section 151 Officer of the Local Government Act 1972.

5.3 Equalities Implications:

There are no direct equalities implications arising directly from this report

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

There no direct implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The internal audit work is based on a full risk assessment. At the start of each audit, relevant areas of risk are discussed with the responsible manager to assist in the focus of the audit work.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Robust corporate governance arrangements are essential to the sound management of the City Council and the achievement of its objectives as set out ion the Corporate Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Annual Report and Opinion 2007/08

Background Documents

1. Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 (Amended 2006)
2. Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government 2006 (CIPFA)
3. Internal Audit Plan 2007/08

