

	Pension Fund Committee 3 February 2016
Title	Pension Fund External Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2016
Report of	Chief Operating Officer
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A - External Audit Plan Workplan
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Summary

In line with International Standard on Auditing 260 (ISA 260) the Pension Fund's external auditors, BDO, should be provided with access to those charged with governance .

BDO are the Pension Fund's appointed external auditors for the 2015/16 financial year, replacing Grant Thornton.

Appendix A to this report provides a progress report from BDO on their workplan for external audit activities for 2015/16.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Pension Fund Committee note the audit strategy for the 2015/2016 external audit.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The audit plan contained at appendix A of the report highlights the key elements of the external auditor's proposed audit strategy for the benefit of those charged with governance.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The recommendations are required in order for the Council to comply with statutory audit requirement.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None-statutory function

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The External Auditor will report to the next Pension Fund Committee to provide a follow up on the previous period's detailed audit findings.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 A positive external audit opinion on the Pension Fund's Annual Report plays an essential and key role in providing assurance that the Pension Fund's financial risks are managed in an environment of sound stewardship and control.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 This report sets out the framework for the assessment of the Pension Fund's financial reporting and financial management as well as providing value for money.
- 5.2.1 The external audit fees for 2015-16 are £21,000, external audit fees were £21,000 in 2014-15).

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Contributing to Pension Fund ensures that contributing members have a secured income on retirement.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Council's Constitution, Responsibility for Functions outlines the terms of reference which enables the Pension Fund Committee to consider and determine this report as the approval of the Pension Fund Statement of Accounts is within the remit of the Committee.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The external audit progress report attached highlights areas of good control and areas of weakness which need to be addressed. Failure to do so carries the risk of adverse financial and/or reputational consequences.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 Pursuant to the Equalities Act 2010, the Council is under an obligation to have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share it; and fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and persons who do not share it. The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 Not required.

5.8 Insight

- 5.8.1 Not used-external report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 None