

# The Audit Findings for Lancashire County Pension Fund

---

**Year ended 31 March 2017**

31 July 2017

**Karen Murray**

Director / Engagement Lead

T 0161 234 6364

E [karen.l.murray@uk.gt.com](mailto:karen.l.murray@uk.gt.com)

**Marianne Dixon**

Engagement Manager

T 0113 200 2699

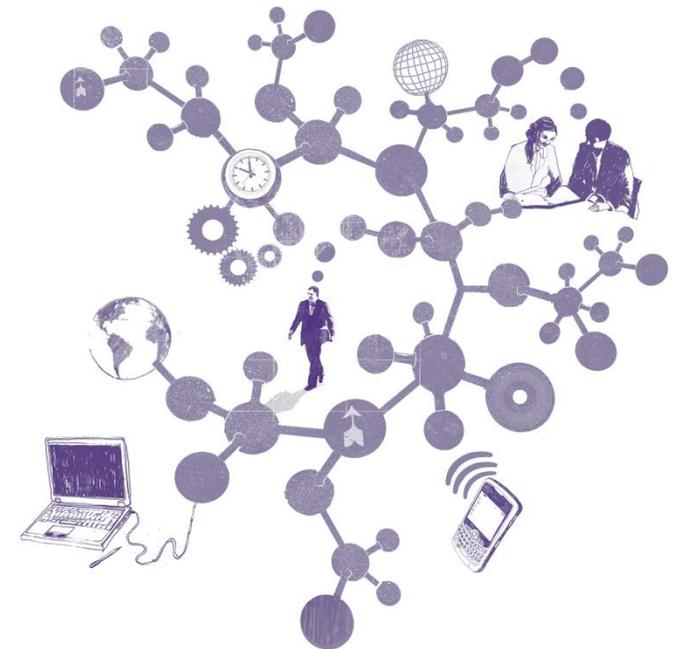
E [marianne.dixon@uk.gt.com](mailto:marianne.dixon@uk.gt.com)

**Ian Pinches**

Assistant Manager In charge

T 0161 234 6359

E [ian.m.pinches@uk.gt.com](mailto:ian.m.pinches@uk.gt.com)



Audit and Governance Committee  
Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR1 8RE

July 2017

Dear Members

Grant Thornton UK LLP  
4 Hardman Square  
Spinningfields  
Manchester  
M3 3EB

0161 953 600  
[www.grant-thornton.co.uk](http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk)

### **Audit Findings for the Lancashire County Pension Fund for the year ending 31 March 2017**

This Audit Findings report highlights the key findings arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance (in the case of the Lancashire County Pension Fund, the Audit and Governance Committee of Lancashire County Council), to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice. Its contents have been discussed with management.

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) ('ISA (UK&I)'), which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed primarily for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the kind assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Yours sincerely

Karen Murray  
Engagement lead

#### **Chartered Accountants**

Grant Thornton UK LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales: No. OC307742. Registered office: Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP. A list of members is available from our registered office. Grant Thornton UK LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Grant Thornton UK LLP is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. Please see [grant-thornton.co.uk](http://grant-thornton.co.uk) for further details.

---

# Contents

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Executive summary	4
2. Audit findings	7
3. Fees, non-audit services and independence	18
4. Communication of audit matters	20

## **Appendices**

- A Audit opinion
- B Audit opinion on Annual Report

---

# Section 1: Executive summary

**01. Executive summary**

**02. Audit findings**

**03. Fees, non audit services and independence**

**04. Communication of audit matters**

## Purpose of this report

This report highlights the key issues affecting the results of Lancashire County Pension Fund ('the Fund') and the preparation of the Fund's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017. It is also used to report our audit findings to management and those charged with governance in accordance with the requirements of ISA (UK&I) 260, and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act').

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Fund's financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund.

## Introduction

In the conduct of our audit we have not had to alter or change our audit approach, which we communicated to you in our Audit Plan dated 9 March 2017.

Our audit is substantially complete although we are finalising our procedures in the following areas:

- completion of our final sample testing of journal entries
- review of the final version of the financial statements
- review of the final version of the annual report
- completion of our internal review procedures
- obtaining and reviewing the management letter of representation and
- updating our post balance sheet events review, to the date of signing the opinion

We received draft financial statements on 25 May 2017 and accompanying working papers at the commencement of our work, in accordance with the agreed timetable.

## Key audit and financial reporting issues

### Financial statements opinion

We have identified no adjustments affecting the Fund's reported financial position (details are recorded in section two of this report). Both the draft financial statements and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 recorded net assets of £7,209.3 million

There were no significant issues arising from our work. The draft financial statements provided to audit were of a high quality and supported by good working papers. The finance team responded promptly and knowledgeably to audit requests and queries. We have recommended a very small number of adjustments to improve disclosure and the presentation of the financial statements, further details of which can be seen within section two of this report.

We anticipate providing an unqualified opinion in respect of the Fund's financial statements.

## Controls

### Roles and responsibilities

The Fund's management is responsible for the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of risk, and for developing, operating and monitoring the system of internal control.

Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we report these to the Fund.

## Findings

Our work has not identified any control weaknesses which we wish to highlight for your attention.

### **The way forward**

Matters arising from the financial statements audit of the Fund have been discussed with the Head of Fund and Director of Financial Resources.

### **Acknowledgement**

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

**Grant Thornton UK LLP**  
**July 2017**

---

## Section 2: Audit findings

01. Executive summary

**02. Audit findings**

03. Fees, non audit services and independence

04. Communication of audit matters

This section summarises the findings of the audit, we report on the final level of materiality used and the work undertaken against the risks we identified in our initial audit plan. We also conclude on the accounting policies, estimates and judgements used and highlight any weaknesses found as part of the audit in internal controls. As required by auditing standards we detail both adjusted and unadjusted misstatements to the accounts and their impact on the financial statements.

# Materiality

In performing our audit, we apply the concept of materiality, following the requirements of ISA (UK&I) 320: Materiality in planning and performing an audit. The standard states that 'misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements'.

As we reported in our audit plan, we determined overall materiality to be £60,362k (being 1% of net assets from the prior year audited statements). We have considered whether this level remained appropriate during the course of the audit and, recognising the increase in net assets, we revised our overall materiality to £72,093k (being 1% of net assets reported in the draft financial statements at 31 March 2017).

We also set an amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial and would not need to be accumulated or reported to those charged with governance because we would not expect that the accumulated effect of such amounts would have a material impact on the financial statements. We have defined the amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial to be £3,604k. Our assessment of the value of clearly trivial matters has been adjusted to reflect our revised materiality calculation.

As we reported in our audit plan, we identified the following item where we decided that a separate materiality level was appropriate.

Balance/transaction/disclosure	Explanation	Materiality level
Related party transactions	Due to public interest in these disclosures	£20,000 however individual misstatements will be evaluated with reference to how material they are to the other party
Disclosure of senior manager salaries and allowances	Due to the public interest in these disclosures and the statutory requirement for them to be made	£5k

Misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements; Judgments about materiality are made in light of surrounding circumstances, and are affected by the size or nature of a misstatement, or a combination of both; and Judgments about matters that are material to users of the financial statements are based on a consideration of the common financial information needs of users as a group. The possible effect of misstatements on specific individual users, whose needs may vary widely, is not considered. (ISA (UK&I) 320)

# Audit findings against significant risks

In this section we detail our response to the significant risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan. As we noted in our plan, there are two presumed significant risks which are applicable to all audits under auditing standards.

Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
<p><b>The revenue cycle includes fraudulent transactions</b></p> <p>Under ISA (UK&amp;I) 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue.</p>	<p>Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at Lancashire County Pension Fund, we have determined the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition</li> <li>• opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited</li> <li>• the culture and ethical frameworks of local authorities, including the Pension Fund’s administering authority (Lancashire County Council), mean that all forms of fraud are seen as unacceptable.</li> </ul>	<p>Our audit work has not identified any issues in respect of revenue recognition.</p>
<p><b>Management over-ride of controls</b></p> <p>Under ISA (UK&amp;I) 240 it is presumed that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities.</p>	<p>In accordance with our audit plan we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewed entity-level controls – including journal environment</li> <li>• reviewed journal entry processes and controls</li> <li>• reviewed accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management</li> </ul> <p>Work being finalised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review of all journals posted and identification of any unusual significant transactions.</li> <li>• testing any identified unusual journal entries to supporting documentation</li> </ul>	<p>Our audit work has not identified any evidence of management over-ride of controls.</p> <p><b>Our sample testing of journal controls and testing of journal entries is still ongoing and we will update the Audit and Governance committee with the results of this work.</b></p> <p>We set out later in this section of the report our work and findings on key accounting estimates and judgements.</p>

"Significant risks often relate to significant non-routine transactions and judgmental matters. Non-routine transactions are transactions that are unusual, due to either size or nature, and that therefore occur infrequently. Judgmental matters may include the development of accounting estimates for which there is significant measurement uncertainty." (ISA (UK&I) 315) . In making the review of unusual significant transactions "the auditor shall treat identified significant related party transactions outside the entity's normal course of business as giving rise to significant risks." (ISA (UK&I) 550)

# Audit findings against significant risks continued

We have also identified the following significant risks of material misstatement from our understanding of the entity. We set out below the work we have completed to address these risks.

Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
<p><b>Level 3 Investments (Valuation is incorrect)</b></p> <p>Under ISA 315 significant risks often relate to significant non-routine transactions and judgemental matters. Level 3 investments by their very nature require a significant degree of judgement to reach an appropriate valuation at year end.</p>	<p>In response to the risk we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updated our understanding of your process for valuing Level 3 investments through discussions with relevant personnel from the Pension Fund</li> <li>• tested a sample of individual investments valuations by obtaining and reviewing the latest audited accounts for individual investments and agreeing these to the fund manager reports at that date. Reconciliation of those values to the values at 31 March with reference to known movements in the intervening period</li> <li>• reviewed the qualifications of fund managers and custodian as experts able to value the level 3 investments at year end and gained an understanding of how the valuation of these investments has been reached</li> <li>• reviewed the competence, expertise and objectivity of any management experts used.</li> </ul>	<p>Our audit work has not identified any issues around the valuation of the Level 3 Investments reported at year end.</p>

# Audit findings against other risks

In this section we detail our response to the other risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan.

Transaction cycle	Description of risk	Work completed	Assurance gained & issues arising
<b>Investment Income</b>	Investment activity not valid. Investment income not accurate. (Accuracy)	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reviewed the reconciliation of information provided by the fund managers, the custodian and the Pension Fund's own records and obtained explanations for variances</li> <li>for direct property income, rationalised income for a sample of properties against expected rental income.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified
<b>Investment purchases and sales</b>	Investment activity not valid. Investment valuation not correct	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reviewed the reconciliation of information provided by the fund managers, the custodian and the Pension Fund's own records and obtained explanations for variances</li> <li>tested a sample of purchases and sales to ensure they are recognised appropriately.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified
<b>Investment values – Level 2 investments</b>	Valuation is incorrect. (Valuation net)	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reviewed the reconciliation of information provided by the fund managers, the custodian and the Pension Fund's own records and obtained explanations for variances</li> <li>tested a sample of those investments to independent information from custodian/manager on units and on unit prices where the custodian does not provide independent pricing confirmation</li> <li>for direct property investments, agreed values in total to the valuer's report and taken steps to ensure it is appropriate for us to place reliance on the valuer as an expert .</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.

"In respect of some risks, the auditor may judge that it is not possible or practicable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence only from substantive procedures. Such risks may relate to the inaccurate or incomplete recording of routine and significant classes of transactions or account balances, the characteristics of which often permit highly automated processing with little or no manual intervention. In such cases, the entity's controls over such risks are relevant to the audit and the auditor shall obtain an understanding of them." (ISA (UK&I) 315)

# Audit findings against other risks continued

Transaction cycle	Description of risk	Work completed	Assurance gained & issues arising
<b>Contributions</b>	Recorded contributions not correct. (Occurrence)	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>carried out procedures and walkthrough testing to understand the pension fund's arrangements for gaining assurance over recorded contributions</li> <li>tested the controls over occurrence, completeness and accuracy of contributions</li> <li>rationalised contributions received with reference to changes in member body payrolls and numbers of contributing pensioners and ensured that any unexpected trends were satisfactorily explained.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.
<b>Benefits payable</b>	Benefits improperly computed/claims liability understated. (Completeness, accuracy and occurrence)	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>performed a walkthrough to gain assurance that the in-year controls were operating in accordance with our documented understanding</li> <li>performed controls testing over completeness, accuracy and occurrence of benefit payments</li> <li>tested a sample of pension payments, lump sums, and refunds</li> <li>rationalised pensions paid with reference to changes in pensioner numbers and increases applied in the year and ensured that any unusual trends were satisfactorily explained.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.
<b>Member Data</b>	Member data not correct. (Rights and Obligations)	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>carried out procedures and reviews sufficient to understand the pension fund's arrangements for gaining assurance over the accuracy of member data</li> <li>performed controls testing over annual/monthly reconciliations and verifications with individual members</li> <li>tested a sample of changes to member data made during the year to source documentation.</li> </ul>	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.

# Accounting policies, estimates and judgements

In this section we report on our consideration of accounting policies, in particular revenue recognition policies, and key estimates and judgements made and included with the Fund's financial statements.

Accounting area	Summary of policy	Comments	Assessment
<b>Revenue recognition</b>	<p>The financial statements include policies for recognition of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.1.1 Contribution income – recognised on an accruals basis, receipts in advance are accounted for as income</li> <li>• 3.1.2 Transfers to and from other schemes – recognised on a cash basis with the exception of bulk transfers, which are accounted for on an accruals basis in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.</li> <li>• 3.1.3 Investment income:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- interest income – recognised on accruals basis</li> <li>- dividend income – recognised when shares are quoted</li> <li>- distribution from pooled funds – recognised at date of issue</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 3.1.4 Property related income – rental income recognised on straight line basis over period of lease</li> <li>• 3.1.5 Movement in net market value of investments – recognise realised and unrealised profits over financial year.</li> </ul>	<p>Review of your policies for revenue recognition confirms they are in line with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice and cover all the expected areas in accordance with the Fund's activities.</p> <p>Our testing has confirmed these policies have been correctly and consistently applied.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Green</p>
<b>Judgements and estimates</b>	<p>Key estimates and judgements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pension Fund Liability – present value of future retirement benefits</li> <li>• Valuation of investments - unquoted private equity and infrastructure investments.</li> </ul>	<p>Our review of your key judgements disclosed in the draft financial statements has confirmed they are complete in accordance with our understanding of the Fund.</p> <p>Our testing has confirmed the accounting policies in relation to these areas are in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice and have been correctly and consistently applied.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Green</p>
<b>Going concern</b>	<p>Officers have a reasonable expectation that the services provided by the Fund will continue for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.</p>	<p>We have reviewed officers' assessment and are satisfied with management's assessment that the going concern basis is appropriate for the 2016/17 financial statements.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Green</p>

**Assessment**  
● Marginal accounting policy which could potentially attract attention from regulators ● Accounting policy appropriate but scope for improved disclosure ● Accounting policy appropriate and disclosures sufficient

# Other communication requirements

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

	Issue	Commentary
1.	<b>Matters in relation to fraud</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with officers and members and have not been made aware of any incidents in the period.</li> <li>No other issues have been identified during the course of our audit procedures.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Matters in relation to related parties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the work we carried out, we have not identified any related party transactions which have not been disclosed.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Matters in relation to laws and regulations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations.</li> <li>We have not identified any incidences from our audit work.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Written representations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A standard letter of representation has been requested from the Fund, which is included in the papers for the Audit and Governance Committee.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Confirmation requests from third parties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We obtained direct confirmations from your fund managers and custodian for investment balances and from your bank for your cash balances (outside of the cash held by your fund managers).</li> <li>All of these requests have been returned with positive confirmation.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Disclosures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our review found no material omissions in the financial statements.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Matters on which we report by exception</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are required to give a separate opinion for the Pension Fund Annual Report on whether the financial statements included therein are consistent with the audited financial statements.</li> <li>We have not identified any issues we wish to report.</li> </ul>

## Internal controls

The purpose of an audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements.

Our audit included consideration of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. We considered and walked through the internal controls for Investment Purchases and Sales, Investment Valuations – Levels 2 and 3, Contributions, Benefits Payable, and Member Data as set out on pages 9 to 12 within this report.

The controls were found to be operating effectively and we have no matters to report..

## Adjusted and unadjusted misstatements

We are required to report all non-trivial misstatements to those charged with governance, whether or not the financial statements have been adjusted by management. There were no adjusted or unadjusted misstatements identified as a result of our procedures.

## Misclassifications and disclosure changes

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements.

Adjustment type	Value £'000	Account balance	Impact on the financial statements
1 Disclosure changes & additional information	-	Note 14 Note 17 Note 18	A number of presentational and disclosure changes have been made as a response to issues identified during the course of the audit and to provide further clarity.  However, these have had no impact on the financial position of the Fund as reported on the face of the Net Assets Statement.

---

## Section 3: Fees, non-audit services and independence

01. Executive summary

02. Audit findings

**03. Fees, non audit services and independence**

04. Communication of audit matters

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and confirm there were no audit related or non-audit services provided

## Fees

	Proposed fee £	Final fee £
Pension fund audit	34,169	34,169
IAS 19 fee variation	1,737	*1,737
<b>Total audit fees (excluding VAT)</b>	<b>35,906</b>	<b>35,906</b>

The Pension Fund audit fee for the year is in line with the scale fee set by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA).

\*The IAS 19 fee for our responsibilities in providing written assurance (on controls over information over information provided by the Pension Fund to the actuary) to PSAA appointed auditor of admitted bodies has yet to be approved by the PSAA for 2016/17.

## Independence and ethics

Ethical standards and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 260 require us to give you full and fair disclosure of matters relating to our independence. In this context, we disclose the following to you:

- the Assistant Manager of our team has a family member who works within the Fund's benefits administration team. To avoid any potential conflicts, this member of our team does not undertake and work on the benefits payable elements of the accounts and is not responsible for the planning or supervision of such work.

We have complied with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards and therefore we confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards.

---

## Section 4: Communication of audit matters

01. Executive summary

02. Audit findings

03. Fees, non audit services and independence

04. Communication of audit matters

# Communication to those charged with governance

ISA (UK&I) 260, as well as other ISAs, prescribe matters which we are required to communicate with those charged with governance, and which we set out in the table opposite.

This document, The Audit Findings, outlines those key issues and other matters arising from the audit, which we consider should be communicated in writing rather than orally, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.

## Respective responsibilities

The Audit Findings Report has been prepared in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (<http://www.psa.co.uk/appointing-auditors/terms-of-appointment/>)

We have been appointed as the Fund's independent external auditors by the Audit Commission, the body responsible for appointing external auditors to local public bodies in England at the time of our appointment. As external auditors, we have a broad remit covering finance and governance matters.

Our annual work programme is set in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code') issued by the NAO (<https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/about-code/>). Our work considers the Fund's key risks when reaching our conclusions under the Code.

Our communication plan	Audit Plan	Audit Findings
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	✓	
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit. Form, timing and expected general content of communications	✓	
Views about the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting and financial reporting practices, significant matters and issues arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		✓
Confirmation of independence and objectivity	✓	✓
A statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, relationships and other matters which might be thought to bear on independence. Details of non-audit work performed by Grant Thornton UK LLP and network firms, together with fees charged Details of safeguards applied to threats to independence	✓	✓
Material weaknesses in internal control identified during the audit		✓
Identification or suspicion of fraud involving management and/or others which results in material misstatement of the financial statements		✓
Non compliance with laws and regulations		✓
Expected modifications to auditor's report, or emphasis of matter		✓
Unadjusted misstatements and material disclosure omissions		✓
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		✓
Significant matters in relation to going concern	✓	✓

---

# Appendices

**A. Audit Opinion**

**B. Audit Opinion on the Annual Report**

# A: Audit opinion

**We anticipate we will provide the Fund with an unmodified audit report**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - LANCASHIRE COUNTY PENSION FUND**

We have audited the pension fund financial statements of Lancashire County Pension Fund ("the pension fund") for the year ended 31 March 2017 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the "Act"). The pension fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

This report is made solely to the members of Lancashire County Council "the Authority", as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Act and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Section 151 Officer and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17, which give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the pension fund financial statements in accordance with applicable law, the Code of Audit Practice published by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (the "Code of Audit Practice") and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

### **Scope of the audit of the pension fund financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the pension fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Section 151 Officer; and the overall presentation of the pension fund financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Authority's Statement of Accounts to identify material inconsistencies with the audited pension fund financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on the pension fund financial statements**

In our opinion:

- the pension fund financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2017 and of the amount and disposition at that date of the fund's assets and liabilities; and
- the pension fund financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and applicable law.

### **Opinion on other matters**

In our opinion, the other information published together with the audited pension fund financial statements in the Authority's Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the audited pension fund financial statements.

Karen Murray  
Director  
for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

4 Hardman Square  
Spinningfields  
Manchester  
M3 3EB

July 2017

# B: Audit opinion on the Annual Report

**We anticipate we will provide the Fund with an unmodified audit report**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE PENSION FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT**

The accompanying pension fund financial statements of Lancashire County Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2017 which comprise the fund account, the net assets statement and the related notes are derived from the audited pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 included in Lancashire County Council's ('the authority') Statement of Accounts. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the pension fund financial statements in the Statement of Accounts in our report dated 31 July 2017

The pension fund annual report, and the pension fund financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the Statement of Accounts. Reading the pension fund financial statements is not a substitute for reading the audited Statement of Accounts of the Authority.

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 paragraph 20(5) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **The Director of Financial Resources responsibilities for the pension fund financial statements in the pension fund annual report**

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 the Director of Financial Resources is responsible for the preparation of the pension fund financial statements, which must include the fund account, the net asset statement and supporting notes and disclosures prepared in accordance with proper practices. Proper practices for the pension fund financial statements in both the Authority Statement of Accounts and the pension fund annual report are set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17.

### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to state to you whether the pension fund financial statements in the pension fund annual report are consistent with the pension fund financial statements in the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with International Standard on Auditing 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

In addition we read the other information contained in the pension fund annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the pension fund financial statements. The other information consists of the Management Structure, Foreword by the Chair of the Pension Fund Committee, Governance of the Fund, Administration of the Fund, Knowledge and Skills Framework, Investment Policy and Performance and Actuarial Valuation.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the pension fund financial statements in the pension fund annual report derived from the audited pension fund financial statements in the Authority Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements in accordance with proper practices as defined in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and applicable law.

Karen Murray  
Director

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

Grant Thornton UK LLP  
4 Hardman Square  
Spinningfields  
Manchester  
M3 3EB



© 2017 Grant Thornton UK LLP. All rights served.

'Grant Thornton' refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires.

Grant Thornton UK LLP is a member firm of Grant Thornton International LTD (GTIL). GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL, and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions.

**[grant-thornton.co.uk](http://grant-thornton.co.uk)**