

Pension Fund Committee

Meeting to be held on 7 June 2013

Electoral Division affected: All

Internal audit annual report 2012/13, including the audit plan 2013/14

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

A copy of the internal audit annual report for the Lancashire County Pension Fund is attached at Appendix 'A'. Based on the internal audit work undertaken during the year we are able to provide substantial assurance over the internal control environment for the pension fund and pension administration.

The report also sets out the plan of work to be undertaken by the county council's internal audit service for the coming financial year in respect of the pension fund. The plan amounts to a total planned resource of 85 days.

Recommendation

The Committee is requested:

1. to consider and note the annual report for 2012/13.
2. to consider and approve the audit plan for 2013/14.

Background and Advice

The CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom 2006 requires the Internal Audit Service to provide a written report to those charged with governance which includes an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's control environment. This report presents our opinion based upon the work we have performed during 2012/13 for the Lancashire Pension Fund.

The audit plan is intended to provide assurance to the Pension Fund Committee and to the chief executive and leader of the council who are jointly required to sign an Annual Governance Statement (AGS), incorporating a statement of internal control. As the county council is responsible for the administration of the pension fund, including the provision of systems, controls and governance, the AGS also embraces the activities of the pension fund.

Consultations

In deriving the audit plan the internal audit team has:

- Discussed with senior management the risks and related controls associated with the pension fund and;
- Made its own assessment of the risks facing the pension fund.

The information derived from these consultations has been incorporated into the audit plan.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report supports the Pension Fund Committee in undertaking its role which includes providing independent oversight of the adequacy of the pension fund's governance, risk management and internal control framework.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom	2006	Rachel Tanner County Treasurer's Directorate X 34904

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:

N/A