

Audit & Governance Committee
Meeting to be held on 03 April 2017

Electoral Division affected: None

External Audit - Lancashire County Pension Fund Audit Plan 2016/17
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

The Annual Audit Plan sets out the nature and scope of work that the Authority's external auditor will carry out to discharge its statutory responsibilities, compliant with the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 (the Act) and the Code of Audit Practice for Local Government.

This audit plan is specific to the financial year 2016/17 and sets out in broad terms the programme of work required to:

- give a financial opinion on whether the financial statements:
 - give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2017 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
 - have been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practice.

The Audit Plan, setting out the process that underpin the audit is at Appendix 'A'.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to agree the External Audit plan for the audit of the Lancashire County Pension Fund for 2016/17, and the fees therein.

Background and Advice

Attached at Appendix 'A' is the external auditor's Annual Audit Plan for the audit of the Lancashire County Pension Fund. The plan sets out the main risk areas which the audit will focus on, including:

- the two default risks as highlighted in ISA+315 applicable to all audits on the revenue cycle includes fraudulent transactions and management override of controls;
- the risk of incorrect valuations on Level 3 investments, which by their nature require a significant degree of judgement to reach an appropriate valuation at year end; and
- other key risks areas around member data, investments, contributions and benefits payable.

The fee for the audit of the pension fund has been set at £34,169, which is the scale fee set by the Audit Commission. A fee of £1,737 is set to cover the IAS19 assurance work which is subject to separate approval from the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Please note the total audit fee is the same as that charged in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

(Note: The scale fee set previously by the Audit Commission for pension fund audits is based on a formula linked to the size of the net assets of the fund and has no specific risk factors linked to it).

Members of the Grant Thornton audit team will attend the meeting to present the report and answer any questions.

Consultations

The report has been agreed with the Head of Fund and Director of Financial Resources.

Implications

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		