

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD
05 May 2022

INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATES

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present an actions log to members following the Internal Audit Report for the Wiltshire Pension Fund prepared by the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) in March 2022.
2. In addition to the SWAP audit, officers will also provide members with updates on key activities requested by the Board. They will be provided verbally and will include.
 - a) A cyber security update; &
 - b) An update in relation to PEN030: The procurement & contract management of service providers, which in this respect is focused on services provided by the Administering Authority & PEN060: A Good Governance review between the Fund and Administering Authority.

Background

3. SWAP undertook the internal audit, reporting on the Fund's key financial controls, in which they returned a "no assurance" opinion. As a result of the auditor's findings officers have prepared the attached actions log (Appendix 1) for presentation to the Board, which aims to highlight the progress made by officers against the recommendations made by SWAP.

Considerations for the Board

4. The deadlines for progressing the recommendations made by SWAP have been split into three milestones, namely the 31 May, 31 July, and 31 October 2022. Consequently, whilst the actions log covers all actions, in light of the deadlines agreed, officers have chosen to focus primarily on 31 May deadlines, which includes one of the two priority 1 recommendations made by SWAP.
5. Due to the complex nature of the other priority 1 recommendation, "Monitoring", which involves further development of a suite of KPI reports and a subsequent dashboard, that can be used to enable a robust process task distribution and performance monitoring of staff, this recommendation has been given an extended deadline of 31 July.
6. The areas of action with an agreed deadline of 31 May include.
 - a) New Enrolments – Priority 2 rating
 - b) Contributions – Priority 2 rating
 - c) Transfers into the Fund – Priority 2 rating
 - d) Operational Backlog – Priority 1 rating
 - e) System Access review follow up – Priority 2 rating

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

7. There is no known environmental impact of this proposal.

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

8. There are no known implications at this time.

Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment

9. There are several financial considerations connected with this audit report, all of which were approved as part of the Fund's budget setting, by the Committee at their meeting on 5 April. Details of the financial considerations are discussed as part of the business plan & budget priorities update.
10. As part of the review of the risk register, officers have sought to assess and update the risk register where necessary to appropriately reflect the risks associated with a "no assurance" audit opinion.

Proposals

11. The Board is asked to:

- a) note the progress made by officers in respect of the recommendations made by SWAP and to offer guidance, if required; and
- b) note the verbal updates provided by officers in connection with other key activities requested by the Board.

JENNIFER DEVINE
Head of Wiltshire Pension Fund

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: NONE

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – SWAP Audit Report – March 2022 actions log