

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE
18 July 2019

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATES

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Final Internal Audit Report for the Wiltshire Pension Fund, as prepared by the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP), and provide an update on the progress of the annual external audit.

Background

2. There is a requirement for a separate annual audit to be carried out on the Wiltshire Pension Fund. The external audit is carried out by Wiltshire Council's new external auditor, Deloitte.
3. Deloitte completed an interim audit visit in March 2019 but did not issue an interim report as there were no significant issues arising from this work. At the end of May, Deloitte carried out the main audit and, at the time of writing, officers are still awaiting the final report which is expected imminently.
4. An internal auditor reviewed key controls and GDPR during March and April and the final report is attached as an appendix to this paper. A further review was also carried out on the control and arrangements around transfer of assets to the Brunel Pension Partnership, and the final report is attached as an appendix to this paper.

Considerations for the Committee

5. The attached Final Audit Report on key controls and GDPR provides an opinion of 'reasonable assurance', stating

"Generally, risks are well managed by some systems require the introduction or improvements of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives".

6. However, the report makes two priority 2 recommendations and five priority 3 recommendations, as detailed in the report.

7. The report also states:

"Although there are a number of recommendations, a reasonable assurance opinion has been offered in relation to this audit as the Management Team of the Pensions Fund had a high awareness of the current issues and have a number of projects underway or planned to improve the controls. This includes the implementation of i-connect, member self-service, Docmail, as well as undertaking an end-to-end review of the process to identify inefficiencies."

8. For each recommendation, the Management team has agreed on actions and appropriate timescales and these are stated within the final report.
9. Work has already begun (or continued as relevant) to address each recommendation.

10. The attached Final Audit Report on the Funds Transfer Audit provides an opinion of 'substantial assurance', stating that:

"The areas reviewed were found to be adequately controlled. Internal controls are in place and operating effectively and risks against the achievement of objectives are well managed."

11. There were no recommendations for this audit.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

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

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

13. There are no known implications at this time.

Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment

14. There are no financial considerations resulting from this proposal although the paper reviews risk as part of the audit.

Proposals

15. The Committee is asked to:

- a) note the attached Final Audit Report;
- b) note the verbal update on the appointment of the Fund's external auditor; and
- c) recommend to officers any areas that should be covered in future.

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

Appendices:

Appendix A – Final internal audit report (Key Controls and GDPR)
Appendix B – Funds Transfer