

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE
24 June 2021

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Committee regarding the Wiltshire Pension Fund annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Background

2. As originally set out in Regulation 34 of the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008, the Pension Fund is required to produce an annual report, and the 2020/21 version is currently in the process of being prepared.

Considerations for the Committee

3. The Pension Fund accounts, which form part of the annual report, are subject to audit as part of the main Wiltshire Council accounts. In recent years, due to issues with the Wiltshire Council accounts, sign-off has been delayed. The sign-off of the 2019/20 accounts will hopefully occur at the July 2021 audit committee.
4. Last year, due to COVID-19, the auditors introduced different requirements with regard to going concern, which they have carried through into 2020/21. They have requested sign off by the Committee of a going concern statement, which is attached as Appendix 1.
5. The 2020/21 accounts are attached as Appendix 2. The audit work on the 2020/21 accounts is almost complete and the version attached is very unlikely to significantly change – there may be minor adjustments as a result of the conclusion of the audit work and final review. During this meeting, officers will provide a high level explanation of the accounts, including significant variances and any changes from 2019/20.
6. This year's annual report will largely follow the same format as last year, as the CIPFA guidance has not changed. The one significant change to note this year is that for the first time the Fund will be reporting in line with TCFD (Task force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures). This will set out the Fund's approach to climate risk, from a perspective of governance, strategy, risk management, and carbon metrics. It is strongly anticipated that this will become mandatory for LGPS funds in coming years, however the Fund wishes to be prepared and demonstrate best practice, so is making the disclosures this year. This report is attached as Appendix 3, for the Committee's information. Additionally, the annual report will include a section on the responsible investment membership survey which was carried out during March 2021, showing highlights of the findings.
7. It is proposed that the annual report for 2020/21 is published in July 2021, as an unaudited version. At this point in time the audit for the Pension Fund will have been fully completed, and we will have certainty that the figures are final, but like last year it will not be possible to obtain full sign off from the auditors until the audit of the Council accounts is fully completed. However, as this is a formality, and in the interests of publishing information while it is still relevant, it is proposed that the Committee approve that the annual report is published on the Wiltshire Pension Fund website as soon as it is completed.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

8. Environmental impact is dealt with in Appendix 3 – TCFD reporting.

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

9. There are no known implications at this time.

Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment

10. There are no financial considerations resulting from this proposal.

Proposals

11. The Committee is asked to:

- a) note the status of the audit of the 2019/20 accounts;
- b) approve the 2020/21 accounts, and authorise officers to make any necessary minor amendments following the conclusion of the audit;
- c) recommend to the audit committee that the 2020/21 accounts are approved for signing;
- d) approve the going concern statement in Appendix 1;
- e) approve the process for publication of the 2020/21 annual report.

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – going concern statement
Appendix 2 – 2020/21 accounts
Appendix 3 – TCFD reporting