

Pension Fund Committee

14 March 2024

Draft Audit Plan 2024/25



Report of Tracy Henderson, Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

1 To present the proposed Annual Audit Plan for 2024/25 for approval.

Executive Summary

2 The Audit Plan for 2024/25 has been developed following discussions between officers from Internal Audit and officers who have responsibility for the Pension Fund, using the strategic audit plan and the risk assurance map as the basis of the discussion. The proposed plan is shown in the table below.

Audit Title	Audit Type	Opinion from Previous Audit	Year of Previous Audit
<u>Deferred from 2023/24</u>			
Governance Arrangements (including Pool)	Assurance	Substantial	2020/21
<u>Scheduled for 2024/25</u>			
Cyber Security*	Assurance	N/A	N/A
Investments	Assurance	Substantial	2021/22
Benefit Calculations	Assurance	Substantial	2022/23
Bank Reconciliation	Assurance	Substantial	2022/23
Management time and ad hoc advice	Advice and Consultancy	N/A	N/A

* First time reviewed as a separate audit for the Pension Fund.

Recommendation

3 Members are asked to approve the proposed audit plan for 2024/25.

Background

- 4 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), which came into effect from April 2013, define internal audit as, “an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation’s operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.”
- 5 The agreed terms of reference for the internal audit service to fulfil this objective are detailed in the Internal Audit Charter.

2024/25 Audit Plan

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- 7 Any audits from the 2023/24 plan, which are not complete by the end of March 2024, will also be brought forward and added to the 2024/25 plan.

Background papers

- Strategic Internal Audit Plan
- Pension Fund Risk Assurance map

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications associated with this report. Internal Audit contribute to the effective governance of the Council and provide relevant and appropriate challenge and oversight where necessary.

Finance

The audit fee for the 2024/25 internal audit plan, to be delivered by the DCC Internal Audit Service, which is chargeable direct to the Pension Fund, will be £20,000 (£19,500 for 2023/24).

Consultation

Corporate Director Resources and Pension Fund Managers.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Climate Change

There are no direct implications on climate change as a result of this report, however the Internal Audit Service ensures that it considers climate change and sustainability in the recommendations that are made.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

The key risk is that actions agreed in audit reports to improve the control environment and assist the Council in achieving its objectives are not implemented. To mitigate this risk, a defined process exists within the Service to gain assurance that all actions agreed have been implemented on a timely basis. Such assurance is reflected in reports to the Committee.

Procurement

None.