

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**SURREY PENSION FUND COMMITTEE****DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2015****LEAD OFFICER: SHEILA LITTLE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE****SUBJECT: SURREY PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS 2014/15****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report presents the audited financial statements of the Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2015, with respect to the County Council's obligations as the administering authority under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations.

The external auditor (Grant Thornton) has issued an unqualified opinion on the accounts and this is outlined in the Audit Findings for Surrey Pension Fund Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Surrey Pension Fund Committee:

- 1 Note and approve the financial statements set out in Annex 1.
- 2 Note the content of the Audit Findings for Surrey Pension Fund Report as set out in Annex 2.
- 3 Note the Letter of Representation as set out in Annex 3.
- 4 Note the External Auditor's Report as set out in Annex 4.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Surrey Pension Fund Committee must approve all financial statements produced for the Pension Fund.

DETAILS:

- 1 The Pension Fund statement of accounts was presented to the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 27 July 2015 and approved, subject to the final completion of the external audit.
- 2 The external auditor is required to report on the Pension Fund financial statements. During the external audit, Grant Thornton identified some minor issues, which led to minor amendments being made to the 2014/15 draft financial statements and related notes to the accounts.
- 3 A copy of the financial statements and notes to the accounts included in Annex 1 will be published in the Pension Fund Annual Report 2015.

- 4 The Audit Findings for Surrey Pension Fund Report is presented at Annex 2 and sets out a summary of the work carried out, the conclusions reached and recommendations made. The Pension Fund Committee will note that Grant Thornton issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.
- 5 It is considered good practice for those charged with governance to provide the external auditor with a letter of representation in respect of matters that are material to the financial statements, but appropriate audit evidence cannot reasonably be expected to exist. The letter of representation, signed by the Director of Finance is included at Annex 3. A copy of the External Auditor's Report is shown at Annex 4.

CONSULTATION:

- 6 The Chairman of the Pension Fund has been consulted on the financial statements and has confirmed full support on the outcome.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

- 7 There are no risk related issues contained within the report's proposals.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 8 Financial and value for money implications are contained within the financial statements and the Audit Findings Report.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE COMMENTARY

- 9 The Director of Finance has overseen the full process of the compilation of the financial statements and the external audit process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

- 10 There are no legal implications or legislative requirements associated with this report.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

- 11 The approval of the financial statements will not require an equality analysis, as the initiative is not a major policy, project or function being created or changed.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 12 There are no potential implications for council priorities and policy areas.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 13 The following next steps are planned:
 - Approval of the financial statements.
 - Inclusion of the financial statements in the Pension Fund Annual Report 2015.

Contact Officer:

Phil Triggs, Strategic Finance Manager (Pension Fund and Treasury)

Consulted:

Pension Fund Committee Chairman

Annexes:

1. Surrey Pension Accounts 2014/15
2. External Audit Finding Report
3. Director of Finance's Letter of Representation
4. External Auditor's Report

Sources/background papers:

None

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