

Audit and Standards Committee

23 May 2024

Warwickshire Pension Fund - External Audit Risk Assessment 2023/24

Recommendation

That the Audit and Standards Committee considers and comments on the Audit Risk Assessment for 2023/24, attached at Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Pension Fund is asked by the external auditors to provide audit risk assessment to help inform external auditors and enable them to take a view on risks and issues that may impact on the accounts, and therefore help external audit in focusing attention on key issues. The draft audit risk assessment is attached at Appendix 1 and documents the Pension Funds' key risk areas and the management response to these.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to consider Appendix 1, and to provide any further comments it wishes to make before the document is finalised and submitted to the External Auditors.
- 1.3 Key issues and significant changes in comparison to last year are summarised in the following table:

Audit Risk Assessment - Summary of Key Issues and Changes

Heading	Key Issues / Changes
General Enquiries of Management	Potential exit credits from employers leaving the Fund is a new issue. Significant global economic uncertainty continues to impact on markets.
Fraud Risk Assessment	The risk of scammers seeking to defraud members of their pension funds continues to be a risk, both to fund members and to the Fund itself in terms of being challenged.
Impact of Laws and Regulations	No issues to highlight
Related Parties	There has been further turnover in key personnel, for example the Director of Finance, the Pensions Administration Manager, and the Pension Investments and Governance Manager leaving the organisation during the year.
Going Concern	No issues to highlight
Accounting Estimates	Level 3 valuations carry a more significant risk of movements post balance sheet date due to lagged reporting.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There will be an audit fee in respect of external audit work, which was reported to the previous Audit and Standards Committee.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 None.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Once the external audit of the accounts is completed, the accounts will be brought back to the Audit and Standards Committee for consideration before being reported to Council for approval.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 - Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Warwickshire Pension Fund 2023/24.

Background Papers

None.

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No members were consulted prior to publication of this report.