

Report to: **Pension Committee**

Date of meeting: **17 July 2017**

By: **Chief Finance Officer**

Title: **Independent Auditor's (KPMG) Report to those charged with governance and Annual Report 2016/17**

Purpose: **To present the KPMG report to those charged with governance, and to report on anticipated unqualified audit opinion on the 2016/17 Pension Fund Annual Report**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the Independent Auditor's (KPMG) report to those charged with governance on Pension Fund Annual Report 2016/17.**
 - (2) Approve the Pension Fund Annual Report for publication.**
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1. Background

1.1 This report summarises the key findings arising from KPMG final audit work in relation to the Pension Fund - 2016/17 Annual Report.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The Pension Board at its meeting on 26 June 2017 received the draft Annual Report and Accounts of the Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2017, in line with the statutory requirement to prepare the accounts and that the draft accounts are presented to Members.

2.2 KPMG LLP is obliged to produce a report to those charged with governance on the Pension Fund annual report and accounts (Appendix 1), which formally reports on the outcome of the final audit of the financial statements.

2.3 The auditor's report requires publication of more detailed points, which in the past were treated as routine technical matters between officers and the auditors. As it happens, on this occasion there are few such points.

3. Changes to ESCC Statement of Accounts

3.1 The Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) on 31 May 2017 formally approved the draft Pension Fund Accounts, in line with the Accounts and Audit 2015 Regulations. Since then the final audit has been carried out by the Council's Independent Auditor (KPMG), who is expected to issue an unqualified "true and fair" audit opinion. The Regulations require the Chief Finance Officer to report on changes to the accounts before they can be published.

3.2 Subject to any issues been identified by the auditor between the issue of this report and the meeting, the auditors propose to issue an unqualified opinion.

3.3 As in any year, few presentational adjustments arising from normal audit work have been noted, discussed, and resolved as stated on page 10 of the report. The auditor (KPMG) has not identified any control findings or recommendations in the course of 2016/17 audit that need to be reported to this Committee.

3.4 The Pension Fund Annual Report is attached as Appendix 2, and the legal deadline for publishing the 2016/17 Annual Report is 1 December 2017.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The committee is recommended to note the Independent Auditor's (KPMG) report to those charged with governance, and approve the 2016/17 Pension Fund Annual Report for publication.

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Chief Finance Officer

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Background Documents

None