

Report to: **Pension Board**

Date: **8 February 2018**

By: **Chief Finance Officer**

Title of report: **External Audit Plan for East Sussex Pension Fund 2017/18**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Board of the content of the Pension Fund external audit plan for 2017/18**

RECOMMENDATION-

The Board is recommended to consider and comment upon the External Audit Plan for the East Sussex Pension Fund for 2017/18.

1. Background

1.1 The Plan confirms the core external audit fee as £26,607. This is unchanged from the 2016/17 fee. The fee is based on a number of assumptions, including the Council providing the auditors with complete and materially accurate financial statements, with good quality supporting working papers, within agreed timeframes. The audit fee is charged to the Pension Fund and not to the Council itself.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The attached Pension Fund external audit plan set out in more detail the work the external auditors will conduct in order to audit the Pension Fund's 2017/18 accounts. The Plan reflects relevant issues that have arisen as a result of the 2016/17 Pension Fund accounts audit and other work carried out by KPMG.

2.2 KPMG initial assessment has not identified any significant risks that are specific to the Pension Fund. Areas of audit focus either due to their size, level of judgement or their influence on other balances within the financial statements are:

- Fraud risk from management override of controls (required by ISAs).
- Valuation of hard to price investments.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 KPMG overall audit approach remains similar to last year with no fundamental changes. Officers will continue to liaise with KPMG to ensure that their work is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible and that internal and external audit plans are complementary and make best use of audit resources. The Plan will be reported to the Pension Committee for approval on 26 February 2018.

IAN GUTSELL
Chief Finance Officer

Contact Officer: Ola Owolabi, Head of Pensions
Tel. No. 01273 482017
Email: Ola.Owolabi@eastsussex.gov.uk

Background Documents
None