

**Report to:** Pension Board

**Date of meeting:** 13 February 2025

**By:** Chief Internal Auditor

**Title:** Internal Audit Strategy for Pensions 2025/26

**Purpose:** This report advises the Board of the outcomes of the Pension Fund - Financial Controls audit and provides it with the opportunity to comment on the draft Internal Audit Strategy for Pensions for 2025/26.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board is recommended to:

- note the Pension Fund – Financial Controls Audit Report (Appendix 1); and
  - consider and comment on the Internal Audit Strategy for Pensions and Annual Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 2).
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### **1. Background**

#### Pension Fund Financial Controls Audit Report

1.1 The review of Financial Controls was completed as part of the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for Pensions 2024/25 and provides assurance on the overall effectiveness of controls.

1.2 We were able to provide an opinion of Substantial Assurance over the controls in place.

#### Internal Audit Strategy for Pensions and Annual Plan 2025/26

1.3 The Council's Internal Audit Strategy for Pensions 2025/26 sets out the approach Internal Audit takes when planning its assurance activity over the effectiveness of controls within the East Sussex Pension Fund (ESPF). It sets out the risks inherent in administering a large and complex fund so that audit resources may be focussed on areas where these risks are highest.

1.4 The proposed number of audit days in the Strategy remains at 75.

1.5 Input has been sought from officers responsible for running the Fund and from the Chairs of both the Pension Board and the Pension Committee and their contributions have been fed into the draft Strategy.

### **2. Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 The Pension Board is requested to:

- note the Pension Fund – Financial Controls Audit Report; and
- consider and recommend the Internal Audit Strategy for Pensions and Annual Plan for 2025/26 to the Pension Committee for its approval.

**RUSSELL BANKS**  
**Orbis Chief Internal Auditor**

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

None