



## Pensions Investment Committee

### **Draft Annual Pension Fund Report and Account 2022/23**

**Date:** 16 November 2023

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** None specifically

**Contributors:** Interim Director of Finance

#### **Outline:**

This report presents the London Borough of Lewisham's Draft Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts that were considered by the Audit Panel on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. The auditors have not completed their work on the Statement of Accounts but expect to be completed by the end of November 2023 and then presented to full Council on 22 November. The Annual Report will also be reviewed by the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton to provide a consistency opinion on the presentation of the financial statements in the Annual Report. The statutory deadline for publication of the Annual Report is the 1 December.

#### **Recommendation:**

The Committee is asked to:

- i) approve the Pension Fund Draft Annual Report for publication by the 1 December 2023,
- ii) note that any amendments or adjustments to the statement of accounts (and therefore the Annual Report) will be brought back to the Committee following the completion of the external audit.

## **Timeline of engagement and decision-making**

This report is for the Pension Investment Committee to approve the Annual Report so that it can meet the statutory deadline to publish the Annual Report by 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report presents the London Borough of Lewisham's Draft Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts that were considered by the Audit Panel on 1st November 2023. The auditors have not completed their work on the Statement of Accounts but expect to be completed by the end of November 2023 and then presented to full Council on 22 November.. The Annual Report will also be reviewed by the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton to provide a consistency opinion on the presentation of the financial statements in the Annual Report. The statutory deadline for publication of the Annual Report is the 1 December.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:
- 2.2. approve the Pension Fund Draft Annual Report for publication by the 1 December 2023,
- 2.3. note that any amendments or adjustments to the statement of accounts (and therefore the Annual Report) will be brought back to the Committee following the completion of the external audit.

## **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1. The overriding policy context for the Pensions Investment Committee are the pension regulations and Members fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries of the Fund.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1. One of the roles of the Committee is to review the Annual Report prior to this being presented to full Council as part of the statement of accounts. The auditors expect to complete the audit by the end of November and present the statement of accounts to full council on 22 November. The statutory deadline to publish the Annual Report is 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## **5. Annual Report**

- 5.1. The Pension Fund Annual Report 2022/23 provides a summary of the years events and the Pension Fund financial statements year-end position.
- 5.2. The Annual Reports covers the activities of the Pension Investment Committee and the Pension Fund Board.

### **Is this report easy to understand?**

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

- 5.3. The External auditors have not completed their work on the 2022/23 audit but they are expected to complete the audit by the end of November 2023 and then will be presented to full Council with the annual statement of accounts on 22 November.
- 5.4. The Pension Fund Draft Annual Report and supporting financial statements were considered by the Audit Panel on 1st November 2023.
- 5.5. Subject to any substantive issues with the Annual Report and accounts being raised by the auditors and the details are not expected to change and will be submitted to the external auditors Grant Thornton for their consistency opinion. It is not expected that this will be completed prior to the statutory publication deadline of the 1 December. It is therefore intended that the draft Annual Report be published on the 1 December 2023 in order to meet the statutory deadline with the final audited report and accounts being brought back to the Pension Investment Committee and published once the external audit concludes.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1. In line with the Council's Constitution and the Committee's Terms of Reference within, as the administering authority for the Fund, the Council must review the performance of the Fund's investments at regular intervals and review the investments made by Fund Managers quarterly.
- 7.2. The Pension Regulations require that the Council has regard to the proper advice of its expert independent advisers in relation to decisions affecting the Pension Fund. They must also have regard to the separate advice of the Chief Financial Officer who has statutory responsibility to ensure the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, including the administration of the Pension Fund.

## **8. Equalities implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

## **9. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 9.1. There are no direct climate or environmental implications arising from this report.

## **10. Crime and disorder implications**

- 10.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 11.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

### **Is this report easy to understand?**

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

## **12. Background papers**

- 12.1. The Lewisham Pension Fund 2020/21 Annual Report and Accounts attached (3a & 3b).

## **13. Report author and contact**

- 13.1. For more information please contact Katharine Nidd, Interim Director of Finance, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Laurence House, 020 8314 6651, [Katharine.Nidd@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Katharine.Nidd@lewisham.gov.uk)
- 13.2. Financial implications: Tony McGuinness Interim Head of Strategic Finance, Planning and Commercial

### **Is this report easy to understand?**

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>