



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2022

Report of the Director of Finance & ICT

Derbyshire Pension Fund Annual Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Director of Finance & ICT, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee, to approve the publication of the Pension Fund's Annual Report for 2021-22.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 In accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, the Administering Authority must prepare and publish an Annual Report for the Pension Fund (the Fund) on or before 1 December following the year end.
- 2.2 In line with CIPFA guidance, it is the Fund's standard practice to present a copy of the Annual Report to Committee prior to 1 December each year and seek approval to publish the Annual Report on the Fund's website. However, this is not possible again this year because of the timing of Committee meetings and the expected timing of the completion of the external audit in respect of both the County Council's (the Council) and Fund's 2021-22 Statement of Accounts. Whilst the Pension Fund's external audit is substantially complete, work is currently still on-going. Since the onset of the Covid pandemic, the timescales for completing the audit of both the Council's and the Fund's Statement of Accounts have become stretched.

- 2.3 The Council's audited accounts, which include the Fund's Statement of Accounts, have yet to be considered and approved by the Council's Audit Committee (scheduled to take place on 29 November 2022), albeit a pre-audit version of the Pension Fund's Statement of Accounts have been presented to the Audit Committee and no issues are expected at this stage. As a result, approval is sought for the Director of Finance & ICT, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee, to approve the publication of the Fund's 2021-22 Annual Report at the first available opportunity following receipt of the external auditor's opinion on the Fund's Statement of Accounts. A copy of the Fund's 2021-22 Annual Report will be circulated to Committee in due course.
- 2.4 The Fund's Annual Report is typically in excess of 200 pages, and is split into a number of sections covering: an Introduction; Key Statistics; Fund Governance; Financial Performance; Investment (including the Fund's carbon risk metrics); Funding; Scheme Administration; and the Fund's Statement of Accounts. There are also several appendices comprised of previously published (and approved) documents, including copies of the Fund's: Governance Policy & Compliance Statement; Communication Policy; Investment Strategy Statement; Funding Strategy Statement; Actuarial Valuation Report; and a Schedule of Employees' and Employers' Contributions.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

4. Background Papers

- 4.1 Working papers held by the Pension Fund Team.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

6. Recommendation(s)

- a) Approval is sought for the Director of Finance & ICT, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee, to approve the publication of the Pension Fund's Annual Report for 2021-22 at the first available opportunity after receipt of the external auditor's opinion on the Fund's Statement of Accounts.

7. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

7.1 The rationale for recommendation 6.1 is set out in Section 2.

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Appendix 1**Implications****Financial**

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 By not publishing the Annual Report by 1 December 2022 there is technically a legal risk in respect of non-compliance with the 2013 Regulations. However, the risk is mitigated by delegation to the Director of Finance and Chair of the Committee to approve publication of the Pension Fund's Annual Report for 2021-22 at the first available opportunity after receipt of the external auditor's opinion on the Fund's Statement of Accounts.

Human Resources

3.1 None

Information Technology

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 None

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None