



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2024

Report of the Director of Finance

Derbyshire Pension Fund 2023-24 Annual Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Director of Finance, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee, to approve the publication of Derbyshire Pension Fund's (the Pension Fund/the Fund) Annual Report for 2023-24.

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 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 Fund's Annual Report to Committee prior to 1 December each year and seek approval to publish it on the Fund's website.
- 2.3 This has not been possible for the last three years due to a stretched timetable for the completion of the external audit of both the County Council's (the Council) and the Pension Fund's Statement of Accounts, and this is the case again this year because the external audit of the Council's and the Fund's Statement of Accounts (2023-24) remains ongoing and is unlikely to be complete by 1 December 2024.

- 2.4 Approval is, therefore, sought for the Director of Finance, in conjunction with the Chair of Committee, to approve the publication of the Pension Fund's 2023-24 Annual Report on the Fund's website at the first available opportunity after the receipt of the external auditor's opinion on the Fund's Statement of Accounts.
- 2.5 Approval is also sought for the Director of Finance, in conjunction with the Chair of Committee, to approve the publication of a draft version of the Fund's 2023-24 Annual Report on the Pension Fund's website by 1 December 2024, if appropriate.
- 2.6 A copy of the Fund's 2023-24 Annual Report will be circulated to Committee in due course.
- 2.7 The Fund's Annual Report is typically more than 200 pages long and is split into 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.
- 2.8 It should be noted that updated guidance has recently been issued to assist LGPS funds with preparing their annual report as required by Regulation 57 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. The guidance, issued in March 2024, aims to achieve consistent and comparable reporting across all funds and was prepared in consultation with fund practitioners, industry experts and other interested stakeholders. It replaces the guidance prepared in 2019 by the CIPFA Pensions Panel which was disbanded in 2021.
- 2.9 The guidance applies to 2023-24 annual reports on a 'best endeavours' basis with LGPS funds expected to comply with the guidance from 2024-25. The guidance includes a requirement for reporting against an expanded number of pension administration KPIs and includes new disclosure requirements with respect to investment pooling.
- 2.10 The Fund plans to comply with the updated guidance in its 2023-24 Annual Report to the extent possible.

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)

That Committee delegates to the Director of Finance, in conjunction with the Chair of Committee:

- a) Approval of the publication of the Pension Fund's Annual Report for 2023-24 on the Fund's website at the first available opportunity after receipt of the external auditor's opinion on the Fund's Statement of Accounts.
- b) Approval of the publication of a draft version of the Pension Fund's 2023-24 Annual Report on the Fund's website by 1 December 2024, if appropriate.

7. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

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

Report Author: Neil Smith

Contact details: neil.smith2@derbyshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Implications

Financial

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 None

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