

London Borough of Harrow Pension Fund

**Planning Report to the Governance, Audit,
Risk Management and Standards Committee**

Year ending 31 March 2015

the
Distinctive
audit

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I am delighted to present this planning report for the 2014/15 audit of the London Borough of Harrow Pension Fund. The report sets out our audit approach and the more significant areas where we will focus our attention this year.

Paul Schofield, Engagement Partner, March 2015



The Big Picture

The Big Picture

We have set out below an overview of the key developments in the pension Fund and the more significant matters we have considered in developing this Audit Plan. We consider these matters as part of our audit risk assessment and this determines where we will focus our work. Details of the impact of these matters on our approach are set out in this Audit Plan.

Key developments in your Fund and sector

- There are no significant changes to the Fund rules or other arrangements other than the change to career average basis for calculation of benefits from 1 April 2014.
- New Schedule of Contribution rates apply for 2014/15.
- The Pensions Regulator is taking on the role of regulator of Local Authority Pension Schemes from 1 April 2015.
- Additional governance arrangements will be applied from 1 April 2015 as required by Public Sector Pensions Act 2013.
- There are no significant changes to the financial reporting framework.
- There have been several key changes in the portfolio of investment managers employed by the Fund.

Key developments in our audit

- No changes to the overall scope of the audit.
- Contributions were £25.5 million in 2013/14 and remain a risk in view of the complexity arising from the participation of different admitted bodies within the Fund, together with the fact that members pay different rates depending on their pensionable pay.
- Benefits in retirement and ill health remain risks in view of complexities around their calculation. Benefits payable were £31.3 million in 2013/14.
- The pension scheme in the past has made some use of investments in unquoted investment vehicles and derivatives which can give rise to complexities in accounting, disclosure and measurement and therefore this area remains a risk. At 31 March 2014 unlisted investments held totalled £283.2 million.
- Risk of management override of controls, is presumed by auditing standards to be a risk due to the unique position management are in to override controls present. This risk is focussed around the use of journals, accounting estimates and unusual transactions outside of the normal course of business.

Significant audit risks

- Contributions
- Benefits
- Investments – unquoted holdings
- Management override of controls

Fund net assets

2014: £590.8m
2013: £552.2m

Contributions

2014: £25.5m
2013: £25.4m

Benefits

2014: £31.3m
2013: £26.7m

Materiality

2015: £6.6m (est.)
2014: £5.9m

Scope of work and approach

This section sets out our planned scoping for the audit of the financial statements. We discuss our determined materiality and confirm the level of unadjusted misstatements which we will report to you. We confirm the extent to which reliance will be placed on internal controls and how this decision has been reached.

Scope of work and approach

Areas of responsibility under the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice

Responsibilities related to the accounts

Based on guidance issued by the Audit Commission, auditors are again asked, for audit purposes, to treat the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) as a stand-alone body, with separate audit plan and reports to those charged with governance.

LGPS funds administered by administering authorities are not statutory bodies in their own right. Therefore, it is not possible for separate audit appointments to be made for LGPS audits. We are therefore appointed to the audit of the LGPS through the existing Audit Commission appointment arrangements.

Our audit of the pension fund is planned in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and in accordance with additional guidance issued by the Commission in relation to the audit of pension schemes. However, this only extends to the audit of the accounts and there is no requirement for a value for money conclusion on the pension scheme accounts specifically. Aspects of the use of resources framework will inform the value for money conclusion for the Authority and cover issues relating to the pension fund.

The audit opinion we intend to issue as part of our audit report on the Authority's financial statements will reflect the financial reporting framework adopted by the pension fund. This is the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the "Code of Practice").

The Audit Commission has also determined that auditors should give an opinion in accordance with auditing standards on the financial statements included in the pension fund annual report. This entails the following additional work over and above giving an opinion on the pension scheme accounts included in the statement of accounts:

- comparing the accounts to be included in the pension scheme annual report with those included in the statement of accounts;
- reading the other information published within the pension scheme annual report for consistency with the pension scheme accounts; and
- where the pension scheme annual report is not available until after the auditor reports on the financial statements, undertaking appropriate procedures to confirm that there are no material post-balance sheet events arising after giving the opinion on the pension scheme accounts included in the financial statements.

The financial statements included in the pension scheme annual report are prepared on the basis of the same proper practices - the Code of Practice - as the financial statements included in the statement of accounts.

Scope of work and approach (continued)

Approach to controls testing

As set out in "Briefing on audit matters" previously circulated to you, our risk assessment procedures will include obtaining an understanding of controls considered to be 'relevant to the audit'. This involves evaluating the design of the controls and determining whether they have been implemented ("D & I").

Liaison with internal audit

ISA (UK and Ireland) 610 "Using the work of internal auditors", issued by the Auditing Standards Board, prohibits the use of internal audit to provide "direct assistance" to the audit. Our approach to the use of the work of Internal Audit has been designed to be compatible with these requirements.

The audit team, following an assessment of the organisational status, scope of function, objectivity, technical competence and due professional care of the internal audit provider, will review the findings of internal audit and adjust the audit approach as is deemed appropriate. This normally takes a number of forms:

- assessment of the control environment;
- discussion of the work plan for internal audit; and
- where internal audit identifies specific material deficiencies in the control environment, we consider adjusting our testing so that the audit risk is covered by our work.

Materiality and error reporting threshold

We calculate materiality on the basis of the net assets of the scheme. We estimate materiality for the year to be £6.6 million (2014: £5.9 million). We will report to the Governance, Audit, Risk Management & Standards Committee on all unadjusted misstatements greater than £298,000 (2014: £295,400) and other adjustments that are qualitatively material.

We will update our assessment during the planning and interim visit based on latest outturn expectations.

Further details on the basis used for the calculation of materiality are given in our audit plan for the audit of the Authority's financial statements.



Significant audit risks

This section sets out our comments regarding the significant audit risks identified. We explain the nature of the risk itself, how these risks will be addressed by our audit work and any related presentational and/ or disclosure matters within the financial statements.

Risk assessment is at the heart of our integrated audit approach as it is only with proper identification of the most significant audit risks, that we are able to provide the highest quality assurance in the most efficient and effective manner.

Significant audit risks

1. Contributions

There are complexities around the calculation of contributions.

Nature of risk

Unlike the position in the private sector, we are not required to issue a statement about contributions in respect of the LGPS.

Contributions for the year ended 31 March 2014 were £25.5 million, showing that this is a material income stream for the pension Fund. This is expected to continue in the current period with the continued active membership paying contributions. Due to the complexity introduced by the participation of more than one employer in the Fund, together with the past introduction of a tiered contribution rates; we have identified contributions as a specific risk.

Our planned audit challenge

We will evaluate the design and implementation of the Authority's arrangements and perform substantive audit testing in this area. This will include completing procedures to ascertain whether employer and employee contributions have been calculated and deducted correctly. Further procedures will be completed surrounding the completeness of the scheduled payments and the accuracy of the receipts against that schedule. This is especially important given the new Schedule in place for 2014/15.

2. Benefits

There are complexities surrounding the calculation of both benefits in retirement and ill health and death benefits.

Nature of risk

The complexities surrounding the calculation of both benefits in retirement and ill health and death benefits remains a key area of audit risk.

In respect of benefits in retirement, from 1 April 2014 benefits are accumulated on a career average basis instead of two different bases for service pre and post 1 April 2008. This adds further complexity to the calculation of benefits. The calculation of benefits depends on a number of factors including pensionable pay and member choice. Furthermore, it is noted that some employers may not have retained the necessary records to enable these calculations to be undertaken by the Fund.

In respect of ill health and death benefits, the calculation of the pensionable pay on which benefits will depend may be varied by the same options as discussed above.

In the year ended 31 March 2014, total benefits paid were £31.3 million. The quantity of individual calculations and complexity of these calculations results in a risk of material misstatement.

Our planned audit challenge

We will review the design and implementation of controls present at the scheme for ensuring the accuracy, completeness and validity of benefits through discussion with the pensions team and testing that controls were in force during the year under review. We will also:

- Obtain a schedule of benefits paid and select a sample of benefits for detailed testing through agreement to supporting documentation, and review of the calculation, by reference to the qualifying service, scheme rules and benefit choices made by the member;
- Consider on a sample basis whether any changes in benefits rates arising from the Pensions Increases Act are correctly calculated and applied in a timely manner; and
- Develop an expectation based on the prior year balance, adjusted for changes in membership numbers and pension increases to analytically review the pension benefits paid in the year.

3. Investments

There are areas of judgement involved in the valuation of investment, including private equity, managed funds and derivatives.

Nature of risk

The scheme had investments of £585m as at 31 March 2014 and therefore a small degree of error in their valuation represents a significant risk of material misstatement.

This risk is compounded by several factors. The first of these is the use of investments in unquoted investment vehicles, like private equity houses, and the use of derivatives within the scheme. The other is the significant changes to the portfolio of investment managers.

Private equity funds are complex to value and include an element of judgement on the part of the investment manager. In addition, further amounts are invested in managed funds which are complex to value due to the difficulty in visibility of the underlying investments.

Our planned audit challenge

We will review the design and implementation of controls present at the scheme for ensuring the accurate recording of investments through discussion with the pensions team and testing that controls were in force during the year under review. We will also:

- vouch the underlying fund manager portfolio valuations received directly to Deloitte to those reconciliations prepared for the scheme as at 31 March 2015;
- perform analytical review procedures to assess the reasonableness of the change in market value of investments;
- confirm the completeness of fund transfers between investment managers;
- use our treasury specialists to obtain confirmation of year end positions of derivatives; and
- for a sample of investments where independent prices are available, we will confirm the prices quoted by the investment managers to independent pricing sources. Where such prices will not be available, we will perform alternative procedures such as reviewing transactions around year end and obtaining audited accounts for private equity balances.

4. Management override of controls

We will focus on the testing of journals, significant accounting estimates, and any unusual transactions in the year.

Nature of risk

International Standards on Auditing requires auditors to identify a presumed risk of management override of control. This presumed risk cannot be rebutted by the auditor. This recognises that management may be able to override controls that are in place to present inaccurate or even fraudulent financial reports.

The key judgement areas and our planned audit challenge

Our audit work will include:

- Reviewing a sample of journal entries that characteristics that may be indicative of potential fraud and management override of controls;
- Reviewing analysis and supporting documentation of key estimates and judgements;
- Performing substantive testing on journal entries to confirm that they have a genuine, supportable rationale;
- Reviewing ledgers for unusual items and on a test basis investigated the rationale of any such postings;
- Reviewing significant management estimates and judgements such as year end accruals and valuation of investments and consider whether they are reasonable; and
- Making enquiries of those charged with governance as part of our planning and detailed audit processes.

Responsibility statement

Purpose of our report and responsibility statement

Our report is designed to help you meet your governance duties

What we report

Our report is designed to establish our respective responsibilities in relation to the financial statement audit, to agree our audit plan and to take the opportunity to ask you questions at the planning stage of our audit. Our report includes:

- Our audit plan, including key audit judgements and the planned scope and timing of our audit; and
- Key regulatory and corporate governance updates, relevant to you.

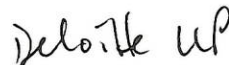
What we don't report

- As you will be aware, our audit is not designed to identify all matters that may be relevant to the Governance, Audit, Risk Management & Standards Committee.
- Also, there will be further information you need to discharge your governance responsibilities, such as matters reported on by management or by other specialist advisers.
- Finally, the views on internal controls and business risk assessment in our final report should not be taken as comprehensive or as an opinion on effectiveness since they will be based solely on the audit procedures performed in the audit of the financial statements and the other procedures performed in fulfilling our audit plan.

Other relevant communications

- This report should be read alongside the supplementary "Briefing on audit matters" previously circulated to you and available on request; and
- We will update you if there are any significant changes to the audit plan.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our report with you and receive your feedback.



Deloitte LLP
Chartered Accountants

Cambridge
16 March 2015

This report has been prepared for the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee, as a body, and we therefore accept responsibility to you alone for its contents. We accept no duty, responsibility or liability to any other parties, since this report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose. Except where required by law or regulation, it should not be made available to any other parties without our prior written consent.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Independence and fees

We confirm we are independent of the London Borough of Harrow Council

As part of our obligations under International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, we are required to report to you on the matters listed below:

Independence confirmation	We confirm we are independent of the London Borough of Harrow Council and will reconfirm our independence and objectivity to the Governance, Audit, Risk Management & Standards Committee for the year ending 31 March 2015 in our final report to the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee.
Fees	Details of any non-audit services fees proposed for the period have been presented separately on the next page. The fee for the current year audit is in line with the scale fee.
Non-audit services	In our opinion there are no inconsistencies between APB Revised Ethical Standards for Auditors and the Authority's policy for the supply of non-audit services or any apparent breach of that policy. We continue to review our independence and ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place including, but not limited to, the rotation of senior partners and professional staff and the involvement of additional partners and professional staff to carry out reviews of the work performed and to otherwise advise as necessary.

We summarise our relationships with the Authority and explain our assessment of threats to auditor independence and safeguards in the Council audit plan document.

Appendix 1: Independence and fees (continued)

We summarise earned or proposed audit fees for the year

The professional fees earned or proposed by Deloitte in the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 are as follows:

	Current year £000	Prior year £000
Audit of the London Borough of Harrow Pension Fund	21	21

There are no non audit services provided or proposed to the London Borough of Harrow Pension Fund for the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Professional fees earned or proposed by Deloitte for services in the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 in respect of other funds of the Authority and other entities controlled by the Authority are set out in our audit plan for the Council.

Appendix 2: Fraud responsibilities and representations

We summarise our respective responsibilities regarding fraud

Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Misstatements in the financial statements can arise from either fraud or error. The distinguishing factor between fraud and error is whether the underlying action that results in the misstatement of the financial statements is intentional or unintentional.• Two types of intentional misstatements are relevant us as auditors – misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting and misstatements resulting from misappropriation of assets.	
Responsibilities	Your responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with management and those charged with governance, including establishing and maintaining internal controls over the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.	Our responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are required to obtain representations from your management regarding internal controls, assessment of risk and any known or suspected fraud or misstatement.• As auditors, we obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.• As set out in the significant risk section of this document we have identified the risk of fraud in management override of controls as a key audit risk for your organisation.

Appendix 2: Fraud responsibilities and representations (continued)

We will make inquiries and obtain representations regarding fraud

We will make the following inquiries regarding fraud:

Management	Internal Audit	Those charged with governance
<p>Management’s assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated due to fraud including the nature, extent and frequency of such assessments.</p> <p>Managements process for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity.</p> <p>Managements communication to those charged with governance regarding its processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity.</p> <p>Managements communication, if any, to employees regarding its views on business practices and ethical behaviour.</p> <p>Whether management has knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity.</p>	<p>Whether internal audit has knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity, and to obtain its views about the risks of fraud.</p>	<p>How those charged with governance exercise oversight of managements processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud in the entity and the internal control that management has established to mitigate these risks.</p> <p>Whether those charged with governance have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the entity.</p>

We will request the following to be stated in the representation letter signed on behalf of the Authority:

- We acknowledge our responsibilities for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- [We are not aware of any fraud or suspected fraud / We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and] that affects the entity or group and involves:
 - (i) management;
 - (ii) employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - (iii) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity’s financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Appendix 3: Operational arrangements

We set out key members of your audit team and other operational information

The work will be led by Paul Schofield, supported by Rimit Shah as audit manager.

Our work will be closely co-ordinated with the work carried out on other parts of main audit of the London Borough of Harrow. Details of our timetable for that work are included in the London Borough of Harrow audit plan.

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