

Report for: Pension Board

Date of Meeting:	2 December 2020
Subject:	Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20 - Outcome of Audit
Responsible Officer:	Dawn Calvert – Director of Finance and Assurance
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	List Ward(s) affected by decision. All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – Pension fund Audit Completion Report (Mazars) Appendix 2 – Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20 Appendix 3 – Pension Fund Management Review Letter

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the auditor's findings arising from their audit of the Pension Fund's 2019-20 Annual report Accounts.

Recommendations:

The Board is requested to note the report.

Section 2 – Report

1. The draft Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts for 2019-20 were reported to the Pension Fund Committee on 9 September 2020, and to the Board on 17 September. At that time the document was subject to audit.
2. Since that meeting, Mazars have carried out the detailed audit work, and their draft Audit Completion report is attached at Appendix 1. This draft was prepared for the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and

Standards (GARMS) Committee on 22 October 2020, and at that point there was some residual audit work outstanding.

3. The detailed audit fieldwork has now been completed and at the time of writing this report, the management review process by the senior audit managers / partner is underway. Any supplementary audit questions arising from the senior management / partner review will be responded to promptly by officers.
4. Week commencing 23rd November will be used for preparation and sign-off of the LBH management review letters - the letter is included at Appendix 3, with the physical signing of the accounts by Mazars being done on 30th November.
5. The audit of accounts has resulted in very few changes being made from the draft which was reviewed in detail by the Board on 17 September 2020. The changes made are summarised as follows:
 - Presentational – to achieve consistency with the Council’s main accounts, the format of presentation of the “year” headings was changed from 2019/20 to 2019-20.
 - In Note 2, page 24, paragraph 1, the words “on a going concern basis” were inserted.
 - Note 3, pages 26 and 27 – additional notes g (Contingent Liabilities) and h (Contingent Assets) were added.
 - Note 5, page 28 – an additional paragraph summarising the impact of Covid 19 on valuations was inserted.This small number of changes reflects the high standard to which the draft accounts were prepared. The updated Annual Report and Accounts is enclosed at Appendix 2.
6. The published version will include the actual dates on which the document is formally signed, and the auditors’ report. Should any changes be required from the “partner review” process these will be notified to the Pension Fund Committee and the Board and incorporated into the published version.

Legal Implications

7. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

8. Whilst the performance and effective controls of the fund managers is of paramount importance in the performance of the Pension Fund, there are no financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications

9. The Pension Fund has a risk register which is reviewed elsewhere on this agenda.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

10. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No
There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

Council Priorities

11. The performance of the Pension Fund directly affects the level of employer contribution which then, in turn, affects the resources available for the Council's priorities .

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Dawn Calvert

Signed by the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 12 November 2020

Statutory Officer: David Hodge

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 11 November 2020

Statutory Officer: Charlie Stewart

Signed by the Corporate Director

Date: 11 November 2020

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Jeremy Randall – Interim Pensions Consultant

Email: Jeremy.randall@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None