

<b>Date:</b>	<b>10 May 2016</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>General Release</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Pension Fund 2015-16 Annual Accounts and Audit Update</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Steven Mair <i>City Treasurer</i></b>
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Policy Context:</b>	<b>Effective Control over Council Activities</b>
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	<b>There are no financial implications arising from this report</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Pension Fund Annual Accounts and the external audit plan for 2015-16.

## 2. Key Matters for the Board

- 2.1 The Board note the contents of this paper.
- 2.2 The lead Pension Fund auditor from Grant Thornton will be attending the meeting and provide a verbal update on the audit of 2015/16 Pension Fund Accounts.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is required to prepare annual accounts for the pension fund which must be audited. The annual accounts follow a standard layout that meets both legislative requirements and best practice guidance. The attached accounts cover the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and record transactions in the year and assets held at the year end, with additional supporting information.

- 3.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 set out the requirements for the production and publication of the annual Statement of Accounts. Regulations state that the Council should submit its accounts for audit by 30 June 2016 and that a committee should approve the final, audited 2015-16 Statements for both the Council and the Pension Fund by 30th September 2016. In accordance with the Council's considerably enhanced closure programme (quality and pace) these accounts:
- were submitted to Grant Thornton for external audit on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Thus the Council has achieved in 9 days what most local government bodies take 3 months to complete,
  - are the earliest public sector accounts ever issued,
  - have exceeded the performance of 94% of the FTSE 100, including the 9 largest companies, and
  - will be reported to the Audit and Performance Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> May (subject to completion of the audit), four and half months before the statutory deadline
- 3.3 At time of writing this report (28<sup>th</sup> April), the audit is substantially complete. The audit plan is attached for information. This sets out the work that the auditor expected to undertake and the risks that will be addressed during the audit.
- 3.4 In verifying the annual accounts, the auditor will selectively test the controls and procedures operated by the Council. These reviews may result in improvement recommendations. The auditor will highlight those recommendations to the Committee, who will be able to seek assurance from the auditor on the adequacy of the control environment for the pension fund.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact:**

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None

## **APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 – Draft Pension Fund Accounts 2015-16

Appendix 2 – Grant Thornton - Annual Audit plan for City of Westminster Pension Fund 2015-16