

Committees: Audit and Risk Management Committee – For information Pensions Committee – For Information	Dated: 11 September 2023 12 September 2023
Subject: City Fund and Pension Fund Audit Plan 22-23	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: The Chamberlain	For Information
Report author: Daniel Peattie, Assistant Director – Strategic Finance	

Summary

The attached External Auditor’s report outlines their work plan for undertaking the audit of the City Fund and Pension Fund Accounts for 2022/23. In addition, the report outlines the work they will undertake to reach a Value for Money conclusion on the Authority’s arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. The report also identifies specific risks and includes a statement of their fees.

Recommendations

The **Audit and Risk Management** Committee is asked to:

- **Note** the Indicative City Fund Audit Plan for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1.
- **Note** the Indicative Pension Fund Audit Plan for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2.

The **Pensions Committee** is asked to:

- **Note** the indicative Pension Fund Audit Plan for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2.

Main Report

Background and Current Position

1. The Audit and Risk Management Committee oversees the City of London Corporation’s systems of internal control and makes recommendations to the Finance Committee relating to the approval of the Annual Statements of Accounts – this includes the Pension Fund accounts.

2. The Authority published its draft accounts for the 2022/23 financial year on 12th July 2023, these can be found [here](#) and the audit of the draft accounts is expected to commence in September 2023 in-line with this plan.
3. Grant Thornton (GT) will be carrying out the external audit of the City Fund and Pension Fund accounts for 2022/23. It is considered good practice and part of the assurance framework for the External Auditor to report to the Audit and Risk Management Committee at regular intervals.
4. Grant Thornton will report the findings arising from their work on the 2022/23 audit to this Committee on 6th November 2023.
5. As the Pension Fund accounts form part of the City Fund accounts as a whole, the Audit and Risk Management Committee retain ultimate responsibility for receiving and considering audit plans as well as receiving any reports arising from the audit. The Pension Fund Audit Plan for 2022/23 is included in Appendix 2; the audit plan and any reports arising from the audit will also be reported to the Pension Fund Committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

6. Strategic implications – There are no specific links to the Corporate Plan. However, the accounts assist the Authority in maintaining a clear and transparent dialogue regarding its activities with residents and other stakeholders.
7. Financial implications – The fees for the audits are included within the appendices and can be met from the existing budget provision.
8. Legal implications – The recommendations of the report request the Audit and Risk Management Committee to note indicative Audit Plans for 2022/23, which outlines Grant Thornton's planning and approach to the audit, including the audit timetable. The Committee is not requested to make any decision and there are no significant legal implications arising from the content of this report.

Conclusion

9. The attached External Auditor's report outlines their work plan for undertaking the audit of the City Fund and Pension Fund Accounts for 2022/23. In addition, the report also outlines the work they will undertake to reach a Value for Money conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. The report also identifies specific risks and includes a statement of their fees which have been reviewed and queried by officers as appropriate.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City Fund Audit Plan 22-23 (Audit & Risk Committee only)
- Appendix 2 – Pension Fund Audit Plan 22-23

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