

Dear Councillor

[I am now able to enclose, the following document that outlines the Urgent Decision agreed on 22 March 2023 by the Chair of Pensions Committee in conjunction with the Director of Pensions and Head of Paid Services.]

**Agenda No    Item**

7        **Urgent Decision (Pages 3 - 8)**

[To provide the Committee with, and seek approval for, the outline of work programme for internal audit during 2023 – 2024.]

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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<b>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</b>	<b>Pensions Committee</b> 22 March 2023
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<b>Report title</b>	Internal Audit Plan 2023 / 2024	
<b>Originating service</b>	Pensions Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Amanda MacDonald Email	Client Lead Auditor <a href="mailto:Amanda.macdonald@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Amanda.macdonald@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Rachel Brothwood Email	Executive Director of Pensions <a href="mailto:Rachel.brothwood@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Rachel.brothwood@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>

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**Recommendation for decision:**

The Pensions Committee is recommended to approve:

1. The Internal Audit Plan for 2023 – 2024.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the outline work programme for internal audit during 2023 – 2024.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The role of internal audit is to provide the Executive Director of Pensions, Section 151 Officer, the Pensions Committee and the Local Pensions Board with an independent and objective opinion on the Fund's risk management, internal controls and governance and its effectiveness in achieving the Fund's agreed objectives. In order to provide this opinion, we are required to review the risk management and governance process at the Fund.

## **3.0 Work Plan 2023 - 2024**

- 3.1 The plan has been developed taking into account the changing regulatory environment, planned service developments together with the Fund's latest Strategic Risk Register.
- 3.2 A copy of the agreed work plan for 2023 – 2024 is attached at Appendix A.

## **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Internal audit is a key part of the Fund's governance and financial control framework, and seeks to provide assurance that the Fund's systems, processes and controls are operating effectively and in support of the Fund's overall aims and objectives.

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 This report contains no direct legal implications.

## **6.0 Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 This report contains no direct equalities implications.

## **7.0 Other Implications**

- 7.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

## **8.0 Schedule of Background Papers**

- 8.1 There are no background papers with this report.

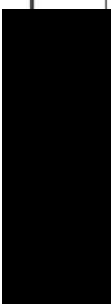
## **9.0 Schedule of Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix A - West Midlands Pension Fund Internal Audit Plan 2023 – 2024.

**Urgent Decision Record**

Date of Committee Meeting	22 March 2023
Title of Committee Report	Internal Audit Plan
Relevant Section of the Admin Authority Constitution (Taken from Pension Committee Terms of Reference)	<p><b>URGENT DECISIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair, or nominated person in consultation with the Executive Director of Pensions shall be able to exercise the powers of the Committee in any matter of immediate urgency which cannot wait until the next meeting. Decisions made under this provision will be reported to the next available meeting of the Committee.</li> </ul>
Background to Decision	<p>The role of internal audit is to provide the Executive Director of Pensions, Section 151 Officer, the Pensions Committee and the Local Pensions Board with an independent and objective opinion on the Fund's risk management, internal controls and governance and its effectiveness in achieving the Fund's agreed objectives. In order to provide this opinion, we are required to review the risk management and governance process at the Fund.</p> <p>The plan has been developed taking into account the changing regulatory environment, planned service developments together with the Fund's latest strategic risk register.</p> <p>The meeting held on 22 March 2023 was not quorate, therefore, it is deemed necessary to seek an urgent decision to approve both the FSS and Asset Share Policy.</p> <p>A report will be presented to Committee at its next scheduled meeting to confirm the decision being taken.</p>
Reason the decision cannot be determined at Committee	
Committee Report	Appended to this notice.

Urgent Decision Record

<p>Action undertaken to determine decision (including advice taken, meetings held, etc.)</p>	<p>The report appended to this notice was presented to and discussed at the inquorate meeting held on 22 March 2023. The report was also published online on modern.gov in accordance with statutory timescales and circulated to all Committee members.</p> <p>Nine elected Councillors including the Chair attended the meeting in person where the report was discussed.</p> <p>No objections were raised from the Committee members in attendance.</p>
<p>Urgent Decision Process Approval</p>	<p>Following discussion, the Chair concluded that the decision</p> <p>*was urgent and determined the recommendations agreed</p> <p><del>*was not urgent and directed the decision to be taken at the next available Committee meeting.</del></p> <p>*delete as appropriate</p>
<p>Recommendations outlined by Officers</p>	<p>1. Internal Audit Report</p>
<p>Decision taken under urgent powers</p>	<p>*To approve the recommendations</p> <p><del>To not approve the recommendations</del></p> <p>*delete as appropriate</p>
<p>Date Completed</p>	<p>22.03.2023</p>
<p>Signed by Chair of Pensions Committee</p>	

Urgent Decision Record

Signed by Executive Director of Pensions					
Signed by relevant Head of Service					

