

Pensions Committee Minutes (Additional Meeting)

2pm, Friday 20 August 2021

Present:

Councillors Munn (in the Chair), Burgess, Child, Rose and Neil Ross; John Anzani and Richard Lamont.

Pension Board Members present:

Jim Anderson, Tony Beecher, Thomas Carr-Pollock, Nick Chapman, Sharon Dalli, Tom Howorth, Darren May, Brian Robertson and Alan Williamson.

Other Attendees:

Andy McKinnell, Independent Professional Observer, Lesley Newdall (Chief Internal Auditor, CEC) and Nick Bennett, Scott Moncrieff (External Auditor)

Apologies:

1. Quorum

The Clerk confirmed that notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present and the meeting was declared open.

2. Appointment of Convener

In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Munn was appointed to chair the meeting.

3. Order of Business

The Clerk advised there was no change to the order of business.

4. Declaration of Interests

To note there were no declarations of interest.

5. Lothian Pension Fund – Internal Audit Opinion and Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The Internal Audit (IA) annual opinion for Lothian Pension Fund (LPF) for the year ended 31 March 2021 was presented. The opinion was based on the outcomes of two audits included in the LPF 2020/21 Internal Audit annual plan and the status of LPF's open and overdue Internal Audit findings as at 31 March 2021.

Internal Audit considered that the LPF control environment and governance and risk management frameworks required some improvement and was therefore reporting a limited "amber" rated opinion (Appendix 1) with assessment towards the lower end of this category. The opinion was "limited" as internal audit did not provide assurance across the full population of LPF risks.

Key themes emerging from the outcome of the two completed 2020/21 audits highlighted the need for LPF to improve the design and effectiveness of the governance, records management and risk management processes supporting their bulk transfer and cessations processes.

Decision

To note the internal audit opinion for Lothian Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2021.

(Reference – report by the Chief Internal Auditor, City of Edinburgh Council, submitted)