

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Annual Report</b>	<b>Status</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to</b>	Audit Committee	<b>Date</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Report of</b>	Director		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	Not Required	Attached	No
<b>Contact Officer</b>	George Graham Director	<b>Phone</b>	01226 666439
<b>E Mail</b>	<a href="mailto:ggraham@sypa.org.uk">ggraham@sypa.org.uk</a>		

## **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To secure approval for the Authority's Annual Report
- 

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- a. **Approve the draft Annual Report as circulated.**
  - b. **Note that further work is required to incorporate information not yet available and to allow an external assessment of compliance with the Stewardship Code before final publication which will require some additions and amendments.**
  - c. **Delegate authority to the Chair of the Committee to authorise publication of the final version once these procedures and the external audit have been completed.**
- 

## **3 Link to Corporate Objectives**

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objectives:

### **Effective and Transparent Governance**

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

*It is a requirement of the LGPS regulations that each administering authority produce an annual report. Much of the content of the report is also specified either in the regulations or in guidance which represents a statutory proper practice.*

## **4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register**

- 4.1 The actions outlined in this report do not specifically link to the Corporate Risk Register.

## **5 Background and Options**

5.1 The current draft of the Authority's Annual Report is set out in Appendix A to this report. Given the size of the document paper copies are not being circulated. The purpose of the report is broadly to "tell our story" over the last financial year in the same way as the report and accounts of a company. There is, however, a significant degree of prescription over the content of the report which makes it a very large document including as appendices a large part of the Pensions Policy Framework, although as these are static documents subject to separate approval these are not included in this draft.

5.2 This year the production process for the annual report has not gone as smoothly as we would have wished and while the process is always "up to the wire" for this meeting of the Audit Committee on this occasion we have been unable to provide a finished product and only very limited proof reading has been possible. The key gaps are:

- The commentary on administration performance which is in preparation but not yet complete. Members will be aware that the general message here is that performance levels are being maintained at a broadly consistent level but doing so is absorbing all the capacity within the system leaving little resource to focus on development areas.
- Information on the workforce which is particularly difficult to produce from our current information systems.
- A review of the year timeline
- The section highlighting the location within the report of evidence of compliance with the Stewardship Code principles, which as it requires a significant number of cross references needs to be completed when the rest of the document has been completed.
- The Audit Certificate which needs to await issue by the Auditors and the completion of their consistency work which always follows this meeting.

5.3 In addition to the consistency work by the Auditors this year it is proposed to seek an external review of the way the document demonstrates compliance with the Stewardship Code to make sure that no items have been missed.

5.4 Given this, members are being asked to approve the current draft as representing a fair telling of "our story" and agree that the Chair of the Committee should formally authorise the issue of the final version following completion of the various pieces of work outlined.

5.5 The fact that we cannot present a fully formed annual report is unfortunate although it should be pointed out that in having a draft alongside the accounts being approved we are ahead of most funds. The fact we have not met our own high standards on this occasion reflects the overall high tempo of operations across the organisation and also the increasing reporting burdens which require lengthening chains for the provision of information by others which is included in the report.

## **6 Implications**

6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	None directly
-----------	---------------

Human Resources	None directly
ICT	None directly
Legal	None directly
Procurement	None directly

**George Graham**

**Director**

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>