

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

25 NOVEMBER 2022

PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Report of the Treasurer

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To ask Members to approve the draft Pension Fund Annual Report 2021/22.

2.0 FINAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

- 2.1 The draft North Yorkshire Pension Fund (NYPF) Statement of Accounts was circulated to members of the Pension Fund Committee soon after the Committee meeting on 1 July 2022. It was not possible to present the Accounts at the meeting, due to phasing of work and internal priorities.
- 2.2 The deadline for the publication for the Council's audited Accounts, which includes the Accounts of NYPF, is 30 November 2022. The deadline is normally 30 September each year but the Government extended the deadline in 2022, to support local audit market stability in response to the Redmond Review. Responsibility to approve the Accounts rests with the Audit Committee.
- 2.3 There is an ongoing nationwide technical accounting issue impacting on the audit of councils' accounts. This relates to the valuation of infrastructure assets such as highways, bridges and coastal defenses. North Yorkshire County Council is one of the very many councils holding these assets and being impacted. A resolution of the issue is expected in the near future, but consequentially the 30 November deadline will be missed.
- 2.4 NYPF is also required to produce an Annual Report, which includes the Fund's Statement of Accounts. The publication deadline for the audited Annual Report is 1 December each year, and for the same reason this deadline will also be missed. It is the responsibility of the Pension Fund Committee to approve NYPF's Annual Report.
- 2.5 The audit of NYPF's accounts is substantially complete and it is expected that the Fund's auditor Deloitte will issue an unqualified opinion in due course. No material issues have been identified. Deloitte will take an Audit Update Report to the Audit Committee once the audit process has been completed. This Report will highlight the areas of focus and any issues identified.

- 2.6 Due to these circumstances, the intention is to publish a draft of the Pension Fund Annual report, along with a note explaining the position, by the 1 December 2022 deadline. This document is attached as **Appendix 1**. Members are therefore asked to approve it. Due to work pressures the sections on pooling costs and ongoing costs on pages 15 and 16 of the document are still to be updated. Once the audit has been completed and the Accounts approved, the Council will publish its audited Accounts and the Pension Fund will publish its audited Annual Report.
- 2.7 At this late stage, material adjustments to the NYPF Annual Report and Accounts are not expected, but if this does happen the Committee will be kept informed.
- 2.8 A draft of Deloitte's Audit Update Report is attached as **Appendix 2**. The final version of the report will be presented to the Audit Committee in due course.

3.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to approve the draft Pension Fund Annual Report for 2021/22.

GARY FIELDING
Treasurer to North Yorkshire Pension Fund
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton

14 November 2022