



**London Borough of
Redbridge Pension Fund
Audit results report**

Year ended 31 March 2021

7 September 2023



EY

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working world



London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund

7 September 2023



Dear Governance and Assurance Committee/ Pension Committee Members,

We are pleased to attach our Audit Results Report for the forthcoming meeting of the Governance and Assurance Committee. We will update the Committee at its meeting on 28 September 2023 on further progress to that date and outline the remaining steps for the issue of our final opinion.

The audit is designed to express an opinion on the 2020/21 financial statements and address current statutory and regulatory requirements. This report contains our findings related to the areas of audit focus, our views on London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund's accounting policies and judgements and material internal control findings. Our audit is substantially complete, but there remain some areas to be finalised and issues to be resolved until we can fully conclude, as outlined in this report. Each year sees further enhancements to the level of audit challenge and the quality of evidence required to achieve the robust professional scepticism that society expects. We thank the management team for supporting this process.

This report is intended solely for the use of the Pensions Committee, Governance and Assurance Committee, and management. It is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the contents of this report with you at the Committee meeting on 28 September 2023.

Yours faithfully

Debbie Hanson

Partner

For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP

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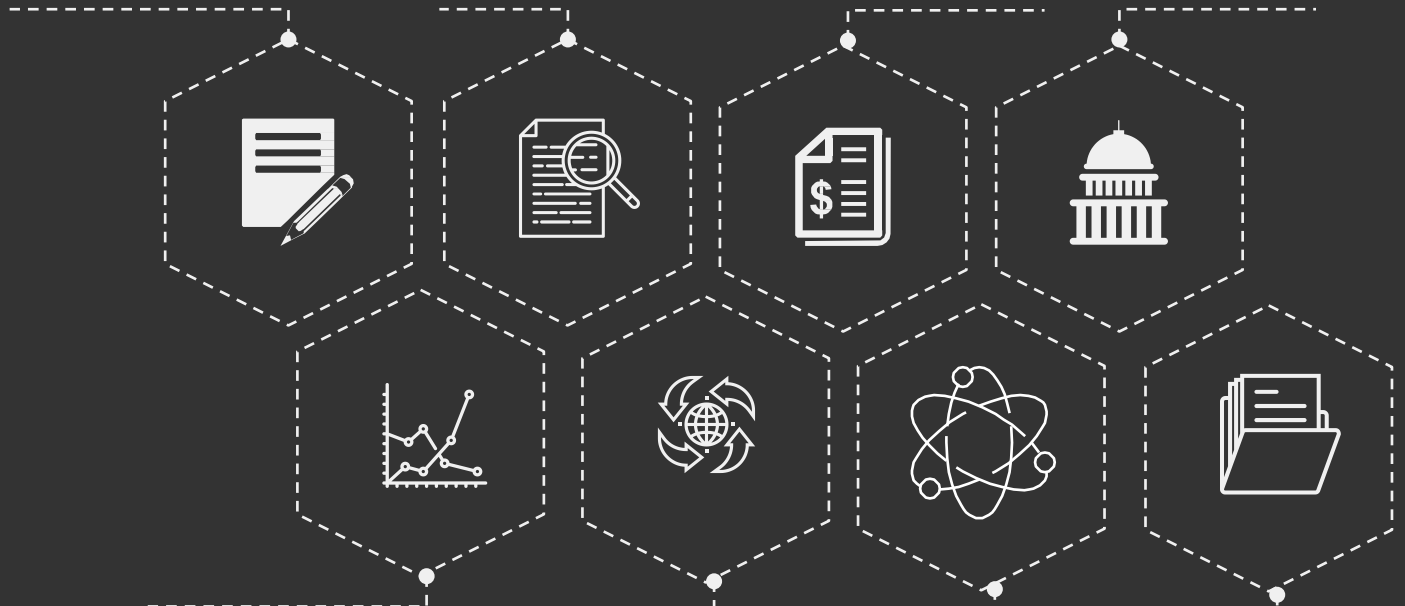
Contents

01 Executive Summary

02 Areas of Audit Focus

03 Audit Report

04 Audit Differences



05 Other reporting issues

06 Assessment of Control Environment

07 Independence

08 Appendices

Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) issued the "Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies". It is available from the PSAA website (<https://www.psa.co.uk/audit-quality/statement-of-responsibilities/>). The Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between appointed auditors and audited bodies. It summarises where the different responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies begin and end, and what is to be expected of the audited body in certain areas. The "Terms of Appointment and further guidance (updated July 2021)" issued by the PSAA sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice (the Code) and in legislation, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature. This report is made solely to the Audit Committee and management of London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund in accordance with the statement of responsibilities. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Audit Committee and management of London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund those matters we are required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Audit Committee and management of London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund for this report or for the opinions we have formed. It should not be provided to any third-party without our prior written consent.



01 Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Scope update

In our Audit Planning Report presented to the Governance and Assurance Committee meeting on 14 July 2021, we provided you with an overview of our audit scope and approach for the audit of the Pension Fund's financial statements. We carried out our audit in accordance with this plan with the following updates.

Update to materiality

Planning materiality, performance materiality and audit differences presented in our audit planning report were £9.63 million, £7.22 million and £0.481 million, respectively. We updated our planning materiality assessment using the draft financial statements as follows and have also reconsidered our risk assessment and confirmed this remains appropriate.

	Planning Materiality	Performance Materiality	Audit Differences
	Our planning materiality represents 1% of the Pension Fund's net assets, consistent year on year.	Performance materiality represents 75% of planning materiality and is the top of our range, consistent year on year.	We will report all uncorrected misstatements relating to the primary statements (net asset statement and fund account) greater than 5% of planning materiality.
Final	£9.61 million	£7.21 million	£0.480 million



Executive Summary

Status of the audit

Our audit work in respect of the 2020/21 Pension Fund is substantially complete. The following items relating to the completion of our audit procedures were outstanding at the date of this report:

- ▶ Review of the consistency check procedures on the Pension Fund's Annual Report with the Pension Fund's financial statements within London Borough of Redbridge's Statement of Accounts pack;
- ▶ Completion of subsequent event procedures up to the date of our audit report;
- ▶ Receipt of the signed Pension Fund accounts, signed Pension Fund Annual Report and a signed letter of management representation.

We are unable to issue the audit opinion on the Pension Fund's financial statements until the audit of the administering authority's (London Borough of Redbridge) financial statements is complete, as the Pension Fund Accounts form part of the London Borough of Redbridge accounts and therefore the two opinions need to be issued concurrently.

Audit differences

Our has only identified a number of disclosure differences which management has agreed to adjust. This included adjustments due to enhanced pension fund disclosure requirements as set out by the reporting framework and minor errors.

We include further details in Section 4 of this report.

Executive Summary

Areas of audit focus

Our Audit Plan identified significant risks and areas of focus for our audit of the Pension Fund financial statements. We summarise below our latest findings. This report sets out our observations and status in relation to these areas, including our views on areas which might be conservative and areas where there is potential risk and exposure. Our consideration of these matters and others identified during the period is summarised in the "Areas of Audit Focus" section of this report.

Fraud risks	Findings & conclusions
Misstatements due to fraud or error (Management Override)	<p>We carried out procedures to address this fraud risk as set out in our Audit Plan, including identifying risks, considering controls and their effectiveness, testing journal entries and testing estimates for evidence of management bias.</p> <p>We have completed our work in this area and have no matters to bring to your attention.</p>
Misstatement due to fraud or error (Incorrect posting of investment valuation journals)	<p>We carried out procedures to address this fraud risk as set out in our Audit Plan, including a reconciliation between the fund manager reports and the custodian reports to address the risk of manipulation of asset valuations.</p> <p>We have completed our work in this area and did not identify any differences.</p>
Significant risk	Findings & conclusions
Valuation of complex investments (including level 3 investments)	<p>We undertook additional procedures, as described more fully in Section 2 of this report, to gain assurance over the material accuracy of the year-end valuation of the Pension Fund's Level 3 complex investments, which are inherently more difficult to value.</p> <p>We have completed our work in this area and did not identify any differences</p>
Areas of audit focus/Higher inherent risk	Findings & conclusions
Going concern disclosures	Our procedures in this area will be completed close to the opinion date. We have reviewed the proposed disclosure on going concern and will revisit this at the point the pension fund statements are authorised for issue to ensure they remain appropriate.
IAS 26 disclosure - Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits	We carried out procedures to assess the IAS 26 disclosure and identified minor disclosure adjustments relating to a required sensitivity analysis and disclosures surrounding estimation uncertainty that management adjusted for.



Executive Summary

Control observations

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of an internal control that might result in a material misstatement in your financial statements and which is unknown to you.

Other reporting issues

We are required to give a consistency opinion on the consistency of the Pension Fund financial statements within the Pension Fund Annual Report with the Pension Fund financial statements in the Statement of Accounts of London Borough of Redbridge. We have not identified any differences from our our consistency checks.

Independence

We confirm that we have no independence issues to report.

Please refer to Section 07 for our update on Independence.



02

Areas of Audit Focus



Areas of Audit Focus

Significant risk

Misstatements due to fraud and error

What is the risk?

There is a risk that the financial statements as a whole are not free of material misstatements whether caused by fraud or error.

As identified in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.

We have considered where this risk specifically manifests itself and this is in the posting of investment journals (see following page).

What judgements are we focused on?

The risk of management override at London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund is mainly through the possibility that management could override controls and manipulate in-year financial transactions which intend to adjust the entity's reported Fund Account.

This could be done through manipulation of estimates including investment valuation, or through journals amending the values in the production of the financial statements from those provided by the custodian or fund managers.

What did we do?

- We enquired of management about risks of fraud and the controls put in place to address those risks.
- We gained an understanding of the oversight given by those charged with governance of management's processes over fraud.
- We tested the appropriateness of journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparing the financial statements.
- We reviewed accounting estimates for evidence of management bias.
- We evaluated the business rationale for any significant unusual transactions.
- We utilised our data analytics capabilities to assist with our work, including journal entry testing. We assessed journal entries for evidence of management bias and evaluated for business rationale.

What are our conclusions?

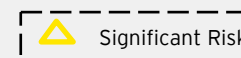
Our procedures to address this risk are complete.

We have not identified any material weaknesses in controls or evidence of material management override.

We have not identified any instances of inappropriate judgements being applied. We did not identify any evidence of management bias in relation to accounting estimates.

Our journal testing did not identify any journal entries without a valid business purpose.

We did not identify any other transactions during our audit which appeared unusual or outside London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund's normal course of business.





Areas of Audit Focus

Significant risk

Misstatements due to fraud and error: Incorrect posting of investment valuation journals

What is the risk?

As identified in ISA (UK and Ireland) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.

The Pension Fund posts year-end manual journals in relation to the valuation of its investments as well as investment income. There is a risk that, due to fraud or error, investment journals posted into the general ledger are incorrect. This could result in a misstatement of year-end investment values and in year investment income.

What judgements did we focus on?

The posting of incorrect investment valuation journals and investment income journals at year-end to the Pension Funds' general ledger. The reporting of incorrect investment valuations and income would impact the performance and funding level of the Pension Fund.

What did we do?

- Verified agreement of the Pension Fund's investment asset holdings as at 31 March 2021, including asset values, and investment income for 2020/21 to source reports from the Pension Fund's custodian and individual fund managers;
- Agreed the reconciliation of holdings included in the Net Assets Statement to the source reports from the Pension Fund's Custodian and Investment Fund Managers.

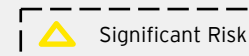
What are our conclusions?

Our procedures to address this risk are complete.

We have not identified any material weaknesses in controls or evidence of material management override.

We did not identify any differences between investments and external confirmations.

We did not identify any differences in investment income between those posted to the financial statements and the supporting Custodian and Investment Manager reports.





Areas of Audit Focus

Significant risk

Valuation of complex investments (including level 3 investments)

What is the risk?

The Fund's investments include infrastructure and 'Inflation Plus' real estate investments. We have identified the valuation of level 3 complex investments as an areas of specific risk. Key judgements are taken by the Investment managers to value those investments where prices are not publicly available. The material nature of Investments means that any error in judgement could result in a material valuation error.

Market volatility (including any ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic) means such judgments can quickly become outdated, especially when there is a significant time period between the latest available audited information and the Pension Fund's year end date of 31 March 2021. Such variations could have a material impact on the financial statements.

In addition, the accounting standard IFRS 13 requires the Pension Fund to include a series of enhanced disclosures in the Fund's financial statements related to valuation risk and sensitivity of level 3 investments. There is an increased audit risk of material misstatement related to these disclosures, as 2020/21 is the first year that the Fund has been required to prepared these disclosures.

What did we do and what judgements did we focus on?

For all level 3 investments we:

- Reviewed the basis of valuation for property investments and other unquoted investments and assessed the appropriateness of valuation methods used;
- Compared the investment value included in the Pension Fund's financial statements to direct confirmations from the fund managers;
- Obtained copies of the ISAE3402 reports over internal control and assessed the potential impact of any control exceptions raised in relation to the valuation of investments;
- Where available, reviewed the latest audited financial statements for the relevant fund managers and ensured there are no matters arising that highlight material differences in the reported funds valuation within the financial statements;
- Where possible, performed analytical procedures and checking the valuation output for reasonableness against our own expectations;
- Reviewed investment valuation disclosures to verify that significant judgements surrounding the valuation of level 3 investments have been appropriately made in the Pension Fund's financial statements.

What judgements are we focused on?

Level 3 investment asset valuations, including the net asset values of each of the individual underlying investments funds. We also considered the potential changes in values where the date of valuation information where is not coterminous with the Pension Fund's year end date of 31 March 2021.

What are our conclusions?

We have not identified audit differences in the valuation of Level 3 investment assets.

We did not identify any weaknesses in fund manager controls related to investment asset valuation reporting of Level 3 assets.

The Pension Fund's financial statement disclosures of significant judgements surrounding the valuation of Level 3 investments were appropriate.





Areas of Audit Focus

What is the risk/area of focus?	What did we do?
<p><u>Going concern disclosure</u></p> <p>There is a presumption that the Fund will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. However, the Fund is still required to carry out a going concern assessment that is proportionate to the risks it faces.</p> <p>The unpredictability of the current economic environment and also the volatility of the capital markets due to the ongoing impact of Covid as well as the Ukraine-Russia conflict give rise to a risk that the Pension Fund may not appropriately disclose the impact of these issues on their going concern assessment. The disclosure should be underpinned by management's assessment based on the Pension Fund's actual year end financial position and projected performance and cashflows for the going concern period of 12 months from the date the accounts are authorised for issue.</p>	<p>In terms of the work completed, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Obtained management's going concern assessment and reviewed for any evidence of bias and consistency with the accounts; ▶ Challenged management's identification of events or conditions impacting going concern and any material uncertainties; ▶ Reviewed the cashflow forecasts prepared by the Pension Fund; ▶ Assessed the adequacy of going concern disclosures in the Pension Fund's financial statements. ▶ Undertook a 'stand back' review to consider all of the evidence obtained, whether corroborative or contradictory, to draw our conclusions on going concern. <p>Our review of the proposed disclosure on going concern has not identified any issues. However, this disclosures will need to be revisited at the point the pension fund statements are authorised for issue to ensure that these remain appropriate to the Pension Fund's circumstances for the foreseeable future (the next twelve months).</p>
<p><u>IAS 26 disclosure - Actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits</u></p> <p>The Pension Fund's IAS 26 calculation estimates the present value of promised retirement benefits amount to £1.1 billion as at 31 March 2020.</p> <p>The figure is material and subject to complex estimation techniques and judgements by the Actuary, Hymans Robertson. The estimate is based on a roll-forward of data from the previous triennial valuation as at 31 March 2019, updated where necessary, and has regard to local factors such as mortality rates and expected pay rises along with other assumptions around inflation and investment yields when calculating the liability.</p> <p>Within the calculation for the disclosure note, the valuation may use inappropriate assumptions to value the liability as at the 31 March 2021.</p>	<p>We responded to this inherent risk by conducting the following procedures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Assessing the competence of management experts, Hymans Robertson; ▶ Considering the findings from the NAO's consulting actuary and our EY Pensions Advisory Team from their review the IAS26 approach applied by the actuary and assessing whether they are reasonable and compliant with IAS26; and ▶ Ensuring that the IAS26 disclosure is in line with the relevant standards and consistent with the valuation provided by the Actuary. <p>We have identified minor disclosure misstatements, which management has corrected. We have not identified any material weaknesses in controls and disclosures are in line with requirements.</p>



03 Audit Report



Audit Report - draft

Draft audit report

Our draft opinion on the financial statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE

Opinion

We have audited the pension fund financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The pension fund financial statements comprise the Fund Account, the Net Assets Statement and the related notes 1 to 24. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.

In our opinion the pension fund financial statements:

- ▶ give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the pension fund during the year ended 31 March 2021 and the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2021; and
- ▶ have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the pension fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and the Comptroller and Auditor General's AGN01, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Corporate Director of Resources' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period to the 31 March 2025.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Corporate Director of Resources with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the authority's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts 2020/21, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the other information contained within the Statement of Accounts 2020/21.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.



Audit Report

Draft audit report

Our opinion on the financial statements

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- ▶ we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- ▶ we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- ▶ we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- ▶ we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- ▶ we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects

Responsibility of the Corporate Director of Resources

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 39, the Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts, which includes the pension fund financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Corporate Director of Resources is responsible for assessing the Pension Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Pension Fund either intends to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Pension Fund and determined that the most significant are the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended), and The Public Service Pensions Act 2013.



Audit Report

Draft audit report

Our opinion on the financial statements

We understood how London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund is complying with those frameworks by understanding the incentive, opportunities and motives for non-compliance, including inquiring of management/head of internal audit/those charged with governance/monitoring officer and obtaining and reading documentation relating to the procedures in place to identify, evaluate and comply with laws and regulations, and whether they are aware of instances of non-compliance. We corroborated this through our reading of the Pension Board minutes, through enquiry of employees to confirm Pension policies, and through the inspection of other information. Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures had a focus on compliance with the accounting framework through obtaining sufficient audit evidence in line with the level of risk identified and with relevant legislation

We assessed the susceptibility of the Pension Fund's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by understanding the potential incentives and opportunities for management to manipulate the financial statements, and performed procedures to understand the areas in which this would most likely arise. Based on our risk assessment procedures we identified the manipulation of journal entries of the investment asset valuations to be our fraud risk.

To address our fraud risk we tested the consistency of the investment asset valuation from the independent sources of the custodian and the fund managers to the financial statements.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any identified significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members of London Borough of Redbridge, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the London Borough of Redbridge and the London Borough of Redbridge's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Debbie Hanson (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Luton
Date



04

Audit Differences



Audit Differences

In the normal course of any audit, we identify misstatements between amounts we believe should be recorded in the financial statements and the disclosures and amounts actually recorded. These differences are classified as “known” or “judgemental”. Known differences represent items that can be accurately quantified and relate to a definite set of facts or circumstances. Judgemental differences generally involve estimation and relate to facts or circumstances that are uncertain or open to interpretation.

Summary of unadjusted and adjusted differences

We highlight uncorrected/unadjusted misstatements greater than £0.480 million which have been identified during the course of our audit.

At the time of this report, we have not identified any uncorrected/unadjusted differences to bring to your attention.

Adjusted Differences

Our audit identified a limited number of minor disclosure misstatements, mostly relating to the narratives, casting and inconsistencies which we have highlighted to management for amendment. There were also some adjustments due to enhanced requirements by IAS 26 and IFRA 13. These have been corrected during the course of the audit and relate to disclosure and presentational matters in the Statement of Accounts.



05 Other reporting issues

Other reporting issues

Consistency of other information published with the financial statements

We must give an opinion on the consistency of the Pension Fund financial statements within the Pension Fund Annual Report with the Pension Fund financial statements in the Statement of Accounts of London Borough of Redbridge.

We have not identified any issues from the completion of our consistency checks.

Other powers and duties

We have a duty under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to consider whether to report on any matter that comes to our attention in the course of the audit, either for the Authority to consider it or to bring it to the attention of the public (i.e. "a report in the public interest"). We did not identify any issues which required us to issue a report in the public interest.

We also have a duty to make written recommendations to the Authority, copied to the Secretary of State, and take action in accordance with our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have had no reason to report in relation to these duties.

Other matters

As required by ISA (UK&I) 260 and other ISAs specifying communication requirements, we must tell you significant findings from the audit and other matters if they are significant to your oversight of the Pension Fund's financial reporting process.

We have no matters to report.



06

Assessment of Control Environment



Assessment of Control Environment

Financial controls

Our responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Pension Fund to develop and implement systems of internal financial control and to put in place proper arrangements to monitor their adequacy and effectiveness in practice. Our responsibility as your auditor is to consider whether the Pension Fund has put adequate arrangements in place to satisfy itself that the systems of internal financial control are both adequate and effective in practice.

As part of our audit of the financial statements, we obtained an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing and extent of testing performed. As we have adopted a fully substantive approach, we have therefore not tested the operation of controls.

Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control we are required to communicate to you significant deficiencies in internal control.

Findings

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in internal control.



07

Independence

Relationships, services and related threats and safeguards

The FRC Ethical Standard requires that we provide details of all relationships between Ernst & Young (EY) and the Pension Fund, and its members and senior management and its affiliates, including all services provided by us and our network to the Pension Fund, its members and senior management and its affiliates, and other services provided to other known connected parties that we consider may reasonably be thought to bear on the our integrity or objectivity, including those that could compromise independence and the related safeguards that are in place and why they address the threats.

There are no relationships from 1 April 2021 to the date of this report, which we consider may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and objectivity.

Services provided by Ernst & Young

The next page includes a summary of the fees in relation to the year ended 31 March 2021 in line with the disclosures set out in FRC Ethical Standard and in statute. Full details of the services that we have provided are shown below.

As at the date of this report, there are no future services which have been contracted and no written proposal to provide non-audit services has been submitted. We confirm that we have not undertaken non-audit work.

Other communications

EY Transparency Report 2022

Ernst & Young (EY) has policies and procedures that instil professional values as part of firm culture and ensure that the highest standards of objectivity, independence and integrity are maintained.

Details of the key policies and processes in place within EY for maintaining objectivity and independence can be found in our annual Transparency Report which the firm is required to publish by law. The most recent version of this Report is for the year end 30 July 2022:

[EY UK 2022 Transparency Report | EY UK](#)

Relationships, services and related threats and safeguard

Services provided by Ernst & Young

As part of our reporting on our independence, we set out below a summary of the fees in relation to the year ended 31 March 2021.

The duty to prescribe fees is a statutory function delegated to Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) by the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

This is defined as the fee required by auditors to meet statutory responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice and supporting guidance published by the National Audit Office, the financial reporting requirements set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting published by CIPFA/LASAAC, and the professional standards applicable to auditors' work.

On completion of the audit we will finalise our fees and provide supporting details to the Corporate Director of Resources. Any fee increases in relation to Code work also need to be approved by PSAA.

	Proposed fee 2020/21	Final fee 2019/20
	£'s	£'s
Scale fee - Code work	16,170	16,170
Additional work and associated fees:		
Changes in work required to address professional and regulatory requirements and scope associated with risk	32,351 (b)	12,463(a)
Total variation to the scale fee		
Additional fee in respect of work on admitted body - London of Redbridge - non code/IAS 19 work	5,000 (c)	4,000 (c)
Triennial membership data testing	N/A	4,000 (d)
Additional level 3 investment valuation procedures	5,000(e)	N/A
Additional going concern procedures	2,000 (f)	N/A
Total fee	TBC	36,633

All fees exclude VAT

See next slide for notes on the fees per the above table

Relationships, services and related threats and safeguard

Notes on fees

- (a) For 2019/20, PSAA approved a fee variation of £12,463 in addition to the scale fee of £16,170. The additional fees represents the cost incurred as a result of additional work required in response to increased FRC challenge, prior period adjustments, the impact of covid-19, a change in the investment custodian and pension valuations.
- (b) We do not believe that the current scale fee reflects the changes in the audit market and increases in regulation since the PSAA tender exercise for this audit. For 2020/21, as in the previous year, we have therefore proposed increases to the scale fee to take into account a number of risk factors including: Procedures to address the risk profile of the Pension Fund; implementation of ISA 540; Additional work to address increase in Regulatory Standards; Client readiness and IT support for Data Analytics. The proposed scale fee increase is subject to determination by PSAA.
- (c) Additional fee to take into account the work required to respond to IAS19 assurance requests from the admitted body - London Borough of Redbridge. The Pension Fund can recharge this fee to the Council. This is not subject to PSAA approval.
- (d) Fee relates to the triennial valuation 2019 - membership data testing
- (e) Additional audit procedures performed relating to the valuation of Investments, particularly the Level 3 investments where we have a significant risk.
- (f) Additional procedures relating to the going concern, which we identified as an area of focus for 2020/21.



08 Appendices

Appendix A

Audit approach update

We summarise below our approach to the audit of the net assets statements and any changes to this approach from the prior year audit.

Our audit procedures are designed to be responsive to our assessed risk of material misstatement at the relevant assertion level. Assertions relevant to the net assets statement include:




- ▶ Existence: An asset, liability and equity interest exists at a given date
- ▶ Rights and obligations: An asset, liability and equity interest pertains to the entity at a given date
- ▶ Completeness: There are no unrecorded assets, liabilities, and equity interests, transactions or events, or undisclosed items
- ▶ Valuation: An asset, liability and equity interest is recorded at an appropriate amount and any resulting valuation or allocation adjustments are appropriately recorded
- ▶ Presentation and disclosure: Assets, liabilities and equity interests are appropriately aggregated or disaggregated, and classified, described and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Disclosures are relevant and understandable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework

There are no changes to our audit approach to the Pension Fund's net assets statement when compared to the prior year audit.




Appendix B

Required communications with the Audit Committee




There are certain communications that we must provide to the Audit Committees of UK clients. We have detailed these here together with a reference of when and where they were covered:

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	 When and where
Terms of engagement	Confirmation by the Audit Committee of acceptance of terms of engagement as written in the engagement letter signed by both parties.	The statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between the PSAA's appointed auditors and audited bodies.
Our responsibilities	Reminder of our responsibilities as set out in the engagement letter.	Audit planning report - 14 July 2021
Planning and audit approach	Communication of the planned scope and timing of the audit, any limitations and the significant risks identified.	Audit planning report - 14 July 2021
Significant findings from the audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Our view about the significant qualitative aspects of accounting practices including accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures ▶ Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit ▶ Significant matters, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed with management ▶ Written representations that we are seeking ▶ Expected modifications to the audit report ▶ Other matters if any, significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process 	This Audit Results Report





Appendix B

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	 When and where
Going concern	<p>Events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Whether the events or conditions constitute a material uncertainty ▶ Whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements ▶ The adequacy of related disclosures in the financial statements 	This Audit Results Report
Misstatements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Uncorrected misstatements and their effect on our audit opinion ▶ The effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods ▶ A request that any uncorrected misstatement be corrected ▶ Material misstatements corrected by management 	This Audit Results Report
Subsequent events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enquiry of the Audit Committee where appropriate regarding whether any subsequent events have occurred that might affect the financial statements. 	This Audit Results Report
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enquiries of the Audit Committee to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud affecting the Authority ▶ Any fraud that we have identified or information we have obtained that indicates that a fraud may exist ▶ Unless all of those charged with governance are involved in managing the Authority, any identified or suspected fraud involving: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Management; b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or c. Others where the fraud results in a material misstatement in the financial statements. ▶ The nature, timing and extent of audit procedures necessary to complete the audit when fraud involving management is suspected ▶ Any other matters related to fraud, relevant to Audit Committee responsibility. 	This Audit Results Report




Appendix B

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	 When and where
Related parties	<p>Significant matters arising during the audit in connection with the Authority's related parties including, when applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Non-disclosure by management ▶ Inappropriate authorisation and approval of transactions ▶ Disagreement over disclosures ▶ Non-compliance with laws and regulations ▶ Difficulty in identifying the party that ultimately controls the Authority 	This Audit Results Report
Independence	<p>Communication of all significant facts and matters that bear on EY's, and all individuals involved in the audit, objectivity and independence.</p> <p>Communication of key elements of the audit engagement partner's consideration of independence and objectivity such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The principal threats ▶ Safeguards adopted and their effectiveness ▶ An overall assessment of threats and safeguards ▶ Information about the general policies and process within the firm to maintain objectivity and independence <p>Communications whenever significant judgments are made about threats to objectivity and independence and the appropriateness of safeguards put in place.</p> <p>For public interest entities and listed companies, communication of minimum requirements as detailed in the FRC Revised Ethical Standard 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Relationships between EY, the company and senior management, its affiliates and its connected parties ▶ Services provided by EY that may reasonably bear on the auditors' objectivity and independence ▶ Related safeguards ▶ Fees charged by EY analysed into appropriate categories such as statutory audit fees, tax advisory fees, other non-audit service fees ▶ A statement of compliance with the Ethical Standard, including any non-EY firms or external experts used in the audit 	<p>Audit Planning Report - 14 July 2021 and This Audit Results Report</p>

Appendix B

		 Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	  When and where
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Details of any inconsistencies between the Ethical Standard and Group's policy for the provision of non-audit services, and any apparent breach of that policy ▶ Details of any contingent fee arrangements for non-audit services ▶ Where EY has determined it is appropriate to apply more restrictive rules than permitted under the Ethical Standard ▶ The audit committee should also be provided an opportunity to discuss matters affecting auditor independence 	
External confirmations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Management's refusal for us to request confirmations ▶ Inability to obtain relevant and reliable audit evidence from other procedures. 	We have received all requested confirmations
Consideration of laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Subject to compliance with applicable regulations, matters involving identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, other than those which are clearly inconsequential and the implications thereof. Instances of suspected non-compliance may also include those that are brought to our attention that are expected to occur imminently or for which there is reason to believe that they may occur ▶ Enquiry of the audit committee into possible instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements and that the audit committee may be aware of 	We have asked management and those charged with governance. We have not identified any material instances or non-compliance with laws and regulations
Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Significant deficiencies in internal controls identified during the audit. 	This Audit Results Report

Appendix B

		Our Reporting to you
Required communications	 What is reported?	  When and where
Written representations we are requesting from management and/or those charged with governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Written representations we are requesting from management and/or those charged with governance 	This Audit Results Report
Material inconsistencies or misstatements of fact identified in other information which management has refused to revise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Material inconsistencies or misstatements of fact identified in other information which management has refused to revise 	This Audit Results Report
Auditors report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Any circumstances identified that affect the form and content of our auditor's report 	This Audit Results Report
Fee Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Breakdown of fee information when the audit planning report is agreed ▶ Breakdown of fee information at the completion of the audit ▶ Any non-audit work 	Audit Planning Report April 2021 and This Audit Results Report

Management representation letter - Draft

London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund anticipated draft, based on the current position of the audit. Further representations may be required

Management Representation Letter

Date
Debbie Hanson
Partner
Ernst & Young LLP
400 Capability Green
Luton LU1 3LU

This letter of representations is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of London Borough of Redbridge Pension Fund (“the Fund”) for the year ended 31 March 2021. We recognise that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Fund during the year ended 31 March 2021, and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the year, in accordance with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of the Fund’s financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), which involves an examination of the accounting system, internal control and related data to the extent you considered necessary in the circumstances, and is not designed to identify - nor necessarily be expected to disclose all fraud, shortages, errors and other irregularities, should any exist.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

A. Financial Statements and Financial Records

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, under the relevant statutory authorities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 and for keeping records in respect of contributions received in respect of active members of the Fund.
2. We confirm that the Fund is a Registered Pension Fund. We are not aware of any reason why the tax status of the Fund should change.
3. We acknowledge, as members of management of the Fund, our responsibility for the fair presentation of the financial statements and the Summary of Contributions. We believe the financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the financial transactions and the financial position of the Fund in accordance with applicable law the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, and are free of material misstatements, including omissions. We have approved the financial statements.

Management representation letter - draft

4. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriately described in the financial statements.
5. As members of management of the Fund we believe that the Fund has a system of internal controls adequate to enable the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. We have disclosed to you any significant changes in our processes, controls, policies and procedures that we have made to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of the conflict and related sanctions in Ukraine, Russia and/or Belarus on our system of internal controls.
6. There are no unadjusted audit differences identified during the current audit and pertaining to the latest period presented.

B. Non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

1. We acknowledge that we are responsible to determine that the Fund's activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible to identify and address any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.
2. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have not made any reports to the Pensions Regulator, nor are we aware of any such reports having been made by any of our advisors.
5. There have been no other communications with the Pensions Regulator or other regulatory bodies during the Fund year or subsequently concerning matters of noncompliance with any legal duty.
6. We confirm that we are not aware of any breaches of the Payment Schedule/Schedule of Contributions or any other matters that have arisen which we considered reporting to the Pensions Regulator.
7. We have no knowledge of any identified or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations, including fraud that may have affected the Fund (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers"), including non-compliance matters:
 - ▶ Involving financial improprieties
 - ▶ Related to laws or regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the Fund's financial statements
 - ▶ Related to laws and regulations that have an indirect effect on amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operations of the Fund's business, its ability to continue in business, or to avoid material penalties
 - ▶ Involving management, or employees who have significant roles in internal control, or others
 - ▶ In relation to any allegations of fraud, suspected fraud or other non-compliance with laws and regulations communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

C. Information Provided and Completeness of Information and Transactions

1. We have provided you with:
 - ▶ Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters.
 - ▶ Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - ▶ Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Management representation letter - draft

2. You have been informed of all changes to the Fund rules.
3. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and all material transactions, events and conditions are reflected in the financial statements, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic and including those related to the conflict and related sanctions in Ukraine, Russia and/or Belarus.
4. We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of members of the management of the Fund and committees of members of the management of the Fund (or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared) held through the period to the most recent meeting on the following date: [list date].
5. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Fund's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers of assets, liabilities and services, leasing arrangements, guarantees, non-monetary transactions and transactions for no consideration for the period ended, as well as related balances due to or from such parties at the period end. These transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.
6. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding annuities held in the name of the members of management of the Fund.
7. We believe that the methods, significant assumptions and the data we used in making accounting estimates and related disclosures are appropriate and consistently applied to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.
8. We have disclosed to you, and the Fund has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.
9. No transactions have been made which are not in the interests of the Fund members or the Fund during the year or subsequently.
10. From the date of our last management representation letter dated 29 March 2021 the date of this letter we have disclosed to you, to the extent that we are aware, any (1) unauthorized access to our information technology systems that either occurred or is reasonably likely to have occurred, including of reports submitted to us by third parties (including regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies and security consultants), to the extent that such unauthorized access to our information technology systems is reasonably likely to have a material impact to the financial statements, in each case or in the aggregate, and (2) ransomware attacks when we paid or are contemplating paying a ransom, regardless of the amount.

D. Liabilities and Contingencies

1. All liabilities and contingencies, including those associated with guarantees, whether written or oral, have been disclosed to you and are appropriately reflected in the financial statements.
2. We have informed you of all outstanding and possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel.
3. We have recorded and/or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities related litigation and claims, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in Note 24 to the financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

E. Subsequent Events

1. Other than described in Note 6 to the financial statements, there have been no events, including events related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and including events related to the conflict and related sanctions in Ukraine, Russia and/or Belarus, subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

Management representation letter - draft

F. Other information

1. We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises the Pension Fund Annual Report, other than the financial statements, the auditor's report and the statement about contributions.
2. We confirm that the content contained within the other information is consistent with the financial statements.

G. Advisory Reports

We have not commissioned any advisory reports which may affect the conduct of your work in relation to the Fund's financial statements and schedule of contributions/payment schedule.

H. Independence

As members of management of the Fund, we are not aware of any matters which would render Ernst & Young LLP ineligible to act as auditor to the Fund.

I. Derivative Financial Instruments and Pooling investments, including the use of collective investment vehicles and shared services

1. We confirm that the Fund has made no direct investment in derivative financial instruments.
2. We confirm that all investments in pooling arrangements, including the use of collective investment vehicles and shared services, meet the criteria set out in the November 2015 investment reform and criteria guidance and that the requirements of the LGPS (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016 in respect of these investments has been followed.

J. Actuarial valuation

The latest report of the actuary Hymans Robertson LLP as at 31 March 2022 and dated 30 March 2023, as well as the report as at 31 March 2019 dated 31 March 2020 have been provided to you. To the best of our knowledge and belief we confirm that the information supplied by us to the actuary was true and that no significant information was omitted which may have a bearing on his report.

K. Estimates

Investment Asset Valuation Estimates

1. We confirm that the significant judgments made in making the Fund's Level 3 investment asset values and pooled investment vehicles ("the accounting estimates") have taken into account all relevant information and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic events related to the conflict and related sanctions in Ukraine, Russia and/or Belarus of which we are aware.
2. We believe that the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data used by us have been consistently and appropriately applied or used in making the accounting estimates.
3. We confirm that the significant assumptions used in making the accounting estimates appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out the specific courses of action on behalf of the entity.

Management representation letter - draft

4. We confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimate(s), including those describing estimation uncertainty and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Fund, are complete and are reasonable in the context of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.
5. We confirm that appropriate specialized skills or expertise has been applied in making the accounting estimates.
6. We confirm that no adjustments are required to the accounting estimate(s) and disclosures in the financial statements, including due to the COVID-19 pandemic and events related to the conflict and related sanctions in Ukraine, Russia and/or Belarus.

Actuarial Present Value of Promised Retirement Benefits Estimate

7. We confirm that the significant judgments made in making the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefit estimate have taken into account all relevant information and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, events related to the conflict and related sanctions in Ukraine, Russia and/or Belarus of which we are aware.
8. We believe that the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data used by us have been consistently and appropriately applied or used in making the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefit estimate.
9. We confirm that the significant assumptions used in making the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefit estimate appropriately reflect our intent and ability to continue to maintain the pension fund on behalf of the entity.
10. We confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimate, including those describing estimation uncertainty and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, are complete and are reasonable in the context of CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.
11. We confirm that appropriate specialized skills or expertise has been applied in making the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefit estimate.
12. We confirm that no adjustments are required to the accounting estimate(s) and disclosures in the financial statements, including due to the COVID-19 pandemic and events related to the conflict and related sanctions in Ukraine, Russia and/or Belarus.

L. Use of the Work of a Specialist

1. We agree with the findings of the specialists that we have engaged to value the Fund's assets and liabilities and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

Management representation letter - draft

M. Going Concern

1. Based on our assessment of going concern, the details of which have been shared with you, we confirm that we are not aware of any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. We do not intend to wind up the Fund. We are satisfied that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

2. Note 2 to the financial statements discloses all of the matters of which we are aware that are relevant to the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, including significant conditions and events, our plans for future action, and the feasibility of those plans.

N. Climate-Related Matters

1. Whilst recognising that the Climate Change Governance and Reporting Regulations do not cover the Local Government Pension Scheme, we confirm that to the best of our knowledge all information that is relevant to the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of climate-related matters has been considered in the financial statements.

2. The key assumptions used in preparing the financial statements are, to the extent allowable under the requirements of United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice aligned with the statements we have made in the other information or other public communications made by us.

Yours faithfully,

Corporate Director of Resources

Chair of the Governance and Assurance Committee

Date

EY | Assurance | Tax | Transactions | Advisory

About EY

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ED None

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