

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Pensions Committee
<b>DATE</b>	16 September 2022
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Internal Audit Update Report
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	IA/22/002
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	N/A
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Jamie Dale Chief Internal Auditor
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Jamie Dale
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.2

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on Internal Audit's work since the last update. Details are provided of the progress against the approved Internal Audit plans, audit recommendations follow up, and other relevant matters for the Committee to be aware of.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 note the progress of the Internal Audit plan;
- 2.2 note the progress that management has made with implementing recommendations agreed in Internal Audit reports;
- 2.3 note the approach to be taken for the 2023-2026 audit planning process; and
- 2.4 note the current staffing level within Internal Audit.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Internal Audit's (IA) primary role is to provide independent and objective assurance on the North East Scotland Pension Fund's (NESPF), and Aberdeen City Council's (whose systems the NESPF relies on) risk management, control, and governance processes. Where this report focuses on the NESPF specifically, consideration has been given and reference will be made to the work we have carried out with the Council overall. This requires a continuous rolling review and appraisal of the internal controls of the Fund and the Council, involving the examination and evaluation of the adequacy of systems of risk management, control, and governance, making recommendations for improvement where appropriate. Reports are produced relating to each audit assignment and copies of these are provided to the Pensions Committee and the Audit, Risk and

Scrutiny (ARS) Committee.

3.2 This report is designed to provide an update to the Pensions Committee on the work of Internal Audit since our last update to the Committee.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

7.1 The Internal Audit process considers risks involved in the areas subject to review. Any risk implications identified through the Internal Audit process are detailed in the resultant Internal Audit reports. Recommendations are made to address the identified risks and Internal Audit follows up progress with implementing those that are agreed with management. Those not implemented by their agreed due date are detailed in the attached appendices.

#### **8. OUTCOMES**

8.1 There are no direct impacts, as a result of this report, in relation to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes of Prosperous Economy, People or Place.

8.2 However, Internal Audit plays a key role in providing assurance over, and helping to improve, the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. These arrangements, put in place by the Council, help ensure that the Council achieves its strategic objectives in a well-managed and controlled environment.

#### **9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	An assessment is not required because the reason for this report is for Committee to consider Internal Audit's update report. As a result, there will be no differential impact, as a result of the proposals in this report, on people with protected characteristics.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required

**10. APPENDICES**

10.1 Appendix A - Aberdeen City Council NESPF - Internal Audit - Update Report.

**11. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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