

<b>Essex Pension Fund Board</b>	<b>EPB/25/10</b>
date: 15 December 2010	

**External Audit - Annual Governance Report for the Essex Pension Fund  
Accounts 2009-10**

Report by the Director for Finance

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**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To submit for Members' information the Annual Governance Report for the Pension Fund (AGR) by the District Auditor and the Action Plan prepared in response to that AGR.

**2. Recommendation.**

- 2.1 That the Board should note the report and appendices.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 the Council as Administering Authority to the Essex Pension Fund is required to produce a set of Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 and every subsequent year thereafter. Those Report and Accounts must be published by 1 December following the year end.
- 3.2 Similarly the Audit Commission's Code of Practice and International Standard of Auditing (UK & Ireland), requires the Council's External Auditor, Rob Murray, District Auditor for the Audit Commission ("the District Auditor"), to submit a report to the Council's Audit Committee on various matters relating the audit work that he has undertaken on the Pension Fund accounts in an Annual Governance Report.

### **4. Annual Governance Report Summary**

- 4.1 The District Auditor's Annual Governance Report (AGR) on the Essex Pension Fund, together with the Action Plan were considered by the Audit Committee on 27 September 2010. These documents are attached for members' information.
- 4.2 In summary the AGR gives an unqualified audit opinion; the accounts were found free from material error; and the internal control environment was found to be accurate.
- 4.3 The AGR recommendations and my comments can be found in the Action Plan shown at Appendix 4.
- 4.4 As agreed at the Essex Pension Fund Board meeting on 25 August 2010 the approval of the Annual Pension Fund Report and Accounts 2009-10 was delegated to Councillor Bass. Councillor Bass approved the Report and Accounts on 16 November 2010 and they were subsequently published on the website on 22 November 2010.

### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008
- 5.2 The Audit Commission's Code of Practice and International Standard of Auditing (UK & Ireland)