



Report to:	AUDIT PANEL
Date:	12 March 2019
Reporting Officer:	Kathy Roe, Director of Finance Paddy Dowdall, Assistant Director of Pensions (Local Investments and Property)
Subject:	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018-19 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
Report Summary:	This report aims to inform the Panel of the governance arrangements for approval of the accounts for Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) as part of the accounts of Tameside MBC as administering authority. Secondly, the report asks the Panel to note the key assumptions for estimates used in the GMPF accounts.
Recommendations:	(i) To note the governance arrangements for approval of GMPF accounts. (ii) To note the assumptions for estimates used in the GMPF accounts.
Corporate Plan:	Effective corporate governance and a robust approach to economy, efficiency and effectiveness underpin the delivery of the Corporate Plan.
Policy Implications:	There are no wider policy implications arising from this report.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	As the administering authority, Tameside MBC has important responsibilities in relation to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. However, as the largest fund in the Local Government Pension Scheme, GMPF also has significant resources it deploys to meet those responsibilities. This paper sets out where the responsibilities lie. The assumptions used for valuing assets will have an impact on the value of assets reported in the accounts. In most circumstances the impact is unlikely to be material. For equities and bonds a bid basis is used that results in a more prudent outcome (v mid or offer basis).
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The administering authority must produce an annual report and accounts.
Risk Management:	GMPF's accounts are used to provide information to a variety of users and for a variety of purposes. The accuracy of the statements is critical in the determination of employer costs and there are clearly reputational issues relating to the validity of the accounts. The audit process provides reassurance on the integrity of the statements and mitigates against the possibility of material misstatement
Access to Information:	NON-CONFIDENTIAL This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Information: The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Tracey Boyle

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report covers two sections:

- Governance Arrangements for the approval of the accounts: and
- Noting of the on-going key assumptions made in compiling the accounts.

2. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 The Pension Fund Management Panel approves the GMPF accounts and formal letters required by the external auditor. It also receives external audit reports.

2.2 The key decision making body for the Council is the Audit Panel which receives accounting policies reports and the reports of the external auditor following the audit of the accounts for both GMPF and the Council. The Council retains overall responsibility for the accounts of both, and the follow-up on the audit reports received for both, but in practice delegates the responsibility for GMPF to GMPF.

2.3 The provisional timetable for approval of the accounts and audit reports by these bodies for 2018/19 is outlined in the table below.

Date	Group	Stage
22 March 2019	Administration & Employer Funding Viability Working Group	Noting of continued key assumptions and updated governance arrangements (GMPF)
12 March 2019	Audit Panel	Approval of key assumptions and noting of governance arrangements (TMBC and GMPF)
19 July 2019	GMPF Management Panel	Approval of final accounts, annual report and audit report (GMPF)
W/c 22 July 2019 (date to be confirmed)	Audit Panel	Approval of final accounts, annual report and audit report (GMPF and TMBC)

2.4 The plan, drawn up to meet legal requirements, is that the pre-audit accounts of both TMBC and GMPF are signed off by the S151 officer of the Council by 31 May 2019.

2.5 The review by the external auditors commences thereafter. Mazars LLP provide the external audit contract for both, but a separate team conduct the GMPF audit due to the specialist and technical demands of LGPS accounts.

2.6 To comply with the statutory arrangements, the process will be completed by 31 July 2019.

3. CONTINUED KEY ASSUMPTIONS

3.1 The key continuing assumptions used in production of the accounts will be disclosed in note 2 of the GMPF accounts when produced:

- Accruals basis;
- Fair value for investments;
- Market prices at bid where possible;
- For non-listed assets, compliance with accounting standards and best practice;
- Liabilities in compliance with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19);

- Continued implementation of CIPFA's guidance on accounting for management costs in the LGPS.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out on the front of the report.