Brent	**Pensions Fund Sub-Committee** 21st February 2022
	Report from the Director of Finance

Brent Pension Fund: Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21

Wards Affected:	ALL
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	1 – Brent Pension Fund Accounts 2020/21
Background Papers:	▪ N/A
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Minesh Patel, Director of Finance Ravinder Jassar, Deputy Director of Finance Flora Osiyemi, Head of Finance Sawan Shah, Senior Finance Analyst Rubia Jalil, Finance Analyst

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report presents the final version of the Pension Fund Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021, following the conclusion of the external audit.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

The Committee is recommended to note the Brent Pension Fund Annual report 2020/21.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Attached in Appendix 1 is the final version of the Pension Fund Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021.

3.2 The Pension Fund Annual report, which includes the annual accounts, was published by the Fund ahead of the statutory 1st December 2021 deadline.

3.3 Grant Thornton have given an unqualified opinion on the Pension Fund accounts and annual report. The Brent Pension Fund were the first local authority pension fund audited by Grant Thornton to have their annual report review completed.

3.4 The accounts have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (the Code) governing the preparation of the 2020/21 financial statements for Local Government Pension Scheme funds. The accounts aim to 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. The audit of the accounts and annual report commenced in July, and was completed by 30th November.

3.5 During 2020/21, the value of the Pension Fund's investments has increased to £1,032m (2019/20 £835m). This is due to the strong performance of global and emerging equities in particular as markets recovered from the pandemic.

3.6 Total contributions received from employers and employees were £61m for the year, an increase on the previous year's £60m. Total benefits paid to scheme beneficiaries, in the form of pensions or other benefits, were £42m, a decrease on the previous year's £48m.

3.7 As in 2019/20, the Pension Fund is in a positive cash-flow position because its contributions exceed its outgoings to members. This means that the Pension Fund is able to invest some of the contributions from members in order to further increase the assets available to pay future benefits.

3.8 Pension Fund administration has seen significant improvements in recent years and the 2020/21 indicators shows a significantly lower number of outstanding cases at year end compared to 2019/20. Additionally, the Fund's conditional data score showed improvement through the year increasing from 68% to 82%. Administration expenses increased due to a higher annual contract fee from Local Pensions Partnership Administration and bespoke data cleanse projects commissioned by the Fund.

3.9 The Pension Fund annual report also incorporates the Pensions Administration Strategy, Funding Strategy Statement and Communications Policy Statement which have been approved by the Committee at previous meetings.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Human Resources

8.1 Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Director of Finance
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