



**Finance Department
7 Newington Barrow Way
London N7 7EP**

Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of: Pensions Committee

Date: 26th September 2023

Ward(s): n/a

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW AND PROGRESS ON THE 2021-2025 PENSION BUSINESS PLAN

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 To report to the Pensions Committee progress made to date on some of the action plans in the agreed four-year business plan and undertake an annual review of the plan

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider and note Appendix A attached.
- 2.2 To review the business plan objectives and agree the required changes if any for the next year.

3. Background

- 3.1 CIPFA Pensions Panel Principles for Investment Decision Making in the Local Government Pension Scheme in the United Kingdom (Guidance note issue No. 5) publication, is based on ten principles proposed by the Myners review of Institutional Investment in the United Kingdom, and was adopted by the Government as a model for best practice in 2001 .
- 3.2 The 10 Myners principles were reviewed by the NAPF in 2007 and after consultation a response document was published in October 2008 and adopted by CLG – now DLUHC (government department responsible for the oversight of the LGPS). The LGPS administering authorities are required to prepare, publish and maintain a statement of compliance against a set of six principles for pension fund investment, scheme governance, disclosure and consultation.
- 3.3. The Myners principles and compliance forms part of Islington Pension Fund’s published Statement of Investment Principles. Myners Principle 1- Effective decision-making through a

forward looking business plan is a key requirement. Members agreed a four-year business plan to June 2023 and to review the plan annually.

3.4 The key objectives of the five-year business plan agreed at the September 2022 Pensions sub-committee:

- To achieve best practice in managing our investments in order to ensure good long-term performance, sustainability of the Fund, value for money and a reduction in managers' fees wherever possible and pursue new investment opportunities "plus an expectation of strong business ethics from fund managers also"
- To continually improve our administration and governance in order to deliver an excellent and cost effective service to all fund members.
- To engage with companies as an active and responsible investor with a focus on good corporate governance and environmental sustainability, whilst achieving a financial return for the fund and addressing societal impact and a focus on strong business ethics and reputation to ensure the safeguarding of the Fund and its members.
- To actively monitor and challenge poor performance in managers and to pursue new investment opportunities
- To develop collaboration opportunities with other funds for sharing of services and pooling

3.5 The four-year business plan with progress to June 2023 is attached as Appendix A. Members are asked to consider and note progress made and undertake a review of the plan's objectives for any amendments for the next 4 years.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications

It is envisaged that a good business plan with effective actions as a whole will lead to efficiencies in running the fund and cost savings.

4.2 Legal Implications

Elected members have a fiduciary duty to the Fund, scheme members and local council tax payers in relation to the LGPS.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

Environmental implications will be included in each report to the Pensions-sub committee as necessary. The current agreed investment strategy statement for pensions outlines the policies and targets set to April 2022 to reduce the current and future carbon exposure by 50% and 75% respectively compared to when it was measured in 2016 and also invest 15% of the fund in green opportunities. The link to the full document is

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public->

4.4 **Equality Impact Assessment:**

The Council must, in carrying out its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment and to promote equality of opportunity in relation to disability, race and gender and the need to take steps to take account of disabilities, even where that involves treating the disabled more favourably than others (section 49A Disability Discrimination Act 1995; section 71 Race Relations Act 1976; section 76A Sex Discrimination Act 1975."

An equalities impact assessment has not been conducted because this report is updating members on the implementation of a fund structure by external managers. There are therefore no specific equality implications arising from this report.

5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 5.1 To note progress made and review the agreed objectives to the business plan and make amendments if necessary.

Appendix – Appendix A -4 year business plan

Background papers:

None

A

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Corporate Director of Resources

Date of final approval

Report Author: Joana Marfoh
Tel: (020) 7527 2382
Email: Joana.marfoh@islington.gov.uk

Financial implications : Joana Marfoh

Legal implications : Marina Lipscomb, Interim Assistant Director of Law
marina.lipscomb@islington.gov.uk

