



**Report of: Corporate Director of Resources**

**Meeting of: Pension Board**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Ward(s): n/a**

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## **Pension Board 2023/24 Forward Work Programme**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 The Appendix A to this report provides information for Members of the Board on agenda items for forthcoming meetings and training topics where required as per its work programme objectives.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To consider and note Appendix A attached and amend the forward programme where there is change in priorities.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Public Services Pensions Act 2013 required the establishment of local pension boards for each Local Government Pension Fund.
- 3.2 Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Governance Regulations 2014 (the Governance Regulations) provide that Pensions Board will have responsibility for assisting the 'scheme manager' (the Pensions Committee in Islington's case) in relation to the following matters:

To ensure compliance with:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulation (LGPS),
- other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS, and
- the requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the LGPS to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the scheme.

3.3 The Pensions Committee is the decision making body of the Fund and the Pension board can only advise or make recommendations to the Pensions Committee

The Pension Board should therefore be mindful;

- Its work plan should take account of the Fund's own work programme and seek to add value
- Servicing the Pension board will consume Fund management resources and time
- Senior Fund officers servicing the Pension Board may on some fund performance issues be personally compromised and conflicted
- Some work items required may need the use of specialist external consultancy resources rather than using the officers servicing the Fund.

3.4 Based on the LGPS and The Pension Regulator's guidance on the role of the pension boards, the focus should include the following:

- a) Its own training, knowledge and understanding
- b) Avoiding any conflicts of interest
- c) Ensuring its own statutory compliance
- d) Checking fund governance
- e) Reviewing fund risks and internal systems and controls
- f) Checking fund external advisors/service providers and their internal controls
- g) Reviewing fund member record keeping
- h) Checking fund contributions
- i) Reviewing fund administration
- j) Benchmarking fund performance and Value for Money (VFM)
- k) Fraud prevention
- l) Employer and member communications
- m) Complaints and dispute resolution
- n) Reporting regulatory breaches

3.5 The Pension Board must also consider its Annual Report and the review of Pension Fund's draft Annual Report and audited accounts and triennial actuarial review.

3.6 Members need to consider their priorities for the next 12 months and use that to formulate their agenda for forthcoming meetings. The draft programme and timetable attached as Appendix A is a guide for members to discuss and amend. It will be updated as necessary at each meeting, to reflect any changes in administration policy, new regulation and pension fund priorities after discussions with Members

## 4. Implications

### Financial implications

- 4.1 Any cost associated with the governance of the fund will be treated as administration cost and charged to the Fund.

### 4.2 Legal Implications

The Public Services Pensions Act 2013 required the council to establish a local pension board by 1 April 2015. The board must comply with the requirements of the relevant legislation and regulations.

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

None applicable to this report. Environmental implications will be included in each report to the Pension Board 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-records/finance/financialmanagement/adviceandinformation/20192020/20190910londonboroughofislingtonpensionfundinvestmentstrategystatement.pdf> .

### 4.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

None applicable to this report. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

- 4.4.1 An equalities impact assessment has not been conducted because this report is seeking opinions on a policy document and therefore no specific equality implications arising from this report.

## 5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 5.1 To advise Members of forthcoming items of business to the Pension Board and training.

**Appendices:** Appendix A- Work programme for 2023/24

**Background papers:**

None:

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**

Corporate Director of Resources

**Date of final approval**

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Finance implication author: Joana Marfoh

Legal implications author: n/a

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Pensions Board Forward Plan for March 2023 to June 2024**

Date of meeting	Work programme objective	Reports
	To ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme	<p><u>Please note:</u> there will be a standing item to each meeting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Admin Performance report</li><li>• Forward work programme</li></ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023		Risk register review Review of 21st Pension Fund committee minutes
27 <sup>th</sup> November 2023		Annual Pension Meeting
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		3 yr. Budget and Annual Cash Flow Risk Register Review
July 2024		Draft financial statements

#### Planned and Previous Training on committee meeting dates

November 2018- pension sub cttee meeting	Training Actuarial Review update
September 2019 joint pension sub and board training	Funding strategy and actuarial valuation
February 2021- joint pension sub and board training	Net zero carbon transition training
September 2022- joint pension sub and board training	Actuarial Valuation training
On going self training	The Pension Regulator Toolkit
12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	CIPFA skill and knowledge assessment matrix