

LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD

Wednesday, 28 September 2022

Present: J Raisin (Chair)

R Dawson
P Fieldsend

R Irvine
P Moloney

17 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and proposed altering the order of the meeting so the items with external presenters be heard first. This was agreed.

The minutes remain in the original agenda order.

18 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from:
Geoff Broadhead employee representative
Donna Ridland, employee representative
Lyn Robinson, employer representative
Stefan Van Arendsen, employer representative

19 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

20 MINUTES

An update was provided on the trade union membership to the Northern LGPS Joint Committee (Minute 9 in the minutes). It was noted that the next meeting was on 8 October 2022 where a further update could be sought.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Local Pensions Board meeting held on 8 July 2022 be approved.

21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) UPDATE

The Head of Pensions Administration presented the report of the Director of Pensions which provided details of developments in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), specifically the publication of a Written Ministerial Statement confirming the Government's continued provision of a guarantee to

the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in respect of Academy Trusts. The report was to go to the Pensions Committee.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that

- the fund had been successful in recovering a debt,
- the Department for Education offered a guarantee although closures were rare.

Resolved:

The report be noted.

22 **CONSULTATION ON GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING OF CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

The Director of Pensions introduced his report which informed Board Members about a consultation by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) seeking views on proposals to require Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administering authorities in England and Wales to assess, manage and report on climate-related risks, in line with the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The consultation ran until 24 November 2022. It did not just concern carbon metrics but also governance, strategy on climate risks, risk management and targets. It was envisaged that Funds produce their own individual reports and that these feed into a report for the LGPS in England and Wales as a whole.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

23 **NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE**

The Director of Pensions introduced this report which provided an update on pooling arrangements in respect of Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and the Northern LGPS. Minutes of the previous Northern LGPS Joint Committee meeting were appended for noting.

Resolved:

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting be noted.

24 **MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

The Director of Pensions introduced this report which provided the minutes of meetings of Working Parties held since the previous Board meeting.

Members noted that the UN's Principles of Responsible Investment programme on human rights had been signed up to which should help to

ensure greater objectivity when considering controversial issues such as those relating to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Resolved:

The minutes of the be noted.

25 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion

26 **CEM: BENCHMARKING OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION**

The report of the Director of Pensions informed the Board of the outcomes of benchmarking exercises undertaken in relation to the 2020-2021 scheme year for both the delivery of the Fund's investment management and pensions administration services.

Resolved:

That the outcomes of both the investment and administration benchmarking reports in relation to the 2020-2021 scheme year be noted.

27 **MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

The Chief Internal Auditor presented his summary report of the programme of audits of the Fund reviewing relevant areas of risk to the Fund, along with his overall opinion.

The Chair proposed an amended recommendation noting the positive audit opinion. This was supported by Board Members.

Resolved:

That it be noted that in 21/22 internal audit work undertaken found that there was an adequate and effective level of control and this was a positive outcome for the fund.

28 **PENSION ADMINISTRATION MONITORING REPORT [PERIOD OF 1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2022]**

The Head of Pensions Administration introduced this report which provided the Pension Board with monitoring information on the key performance indicators in respect of work undertaken by the administration team during the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.

Resolved:
That the report be noted.

29 **RISK REGISTER**

The Director of Pensions introduced this report which presented a copy of Merseyside Pension Fund's Risk Register for consideration by the Board.

Resolved:
That the changes to the risk register be noted.