

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

17 NOVEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

PENSION ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY STATEMENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the results of consultation with stakeholders on the introduction of a Pensions Administration Strategy Statement intended to improve standards of administration and quality of service provided to scheme members.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) has for many years had a Service Standards Charter document in place setting out the administrative responsibilities of MPF and individual employers under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
- 2.2 From 1 April 2008 Regulation 65 of the **Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008** provides that each Administering Authority may prepare a written statement of policies in relation to matters it considers appropriate to its pension administration strategy and after consultation with employers and other stakeholders publish a Pensions Administration Strategy Statement.
- 2.3 The Regulations require that the Administering Authority and its employing authorities must have regard to the current version of any pension administration strategy when carrying out their Scheme functions. The Administering Authority must keep its administration strategy under review and update it as necessary to reflect any material changes in its policies in relation to any matters contained in the strategy.
- 2.4 MPF posted the draft strategy on its Employer Website and circulated details of the statement to all scheme employers and trade unions representing employees for comment on 20 August 2009 and a further reminder was circulated on 29 September 2009.
- 2.5 The document has been updated having regard to comments received from a number of employers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Effective and efficient administration of the pensions administration function should minimise costs of administration both for MPF and individual employers and improve the quality of service provision to scheme members.

3.2 Section 10 of the strategy sets out the circumstances in which MPF will seek to recover from individual scheme employers additional costs which have resulted from their poor performance or failure to comply with the requirements of the Pension Regulations.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific implications for any Member or Ward.

9. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

10. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Local Government Pension Scheme Administration Regulations 2008.

12. RECOMMENDATION

12.1. That the Committee approve the draft Pensions Administration Strategy Statement attached at appendix 1.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE