

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

17 NOVEMBER 2014

SUBJECT:	AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES
WARD/S AFFECTED:	NONE
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out proposed changes to authorised signatories at Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) following the completion of the appointment of the Investment Manager, Alternatives.
- 1.2 This report describes the different requirements for various institutions and functions, including the banks, custodian, and overseas pensions payment agent, as well as the granting of power of attorney where appropriate.
- 1.3 This report also forms a part of the Fund's scheme of delegation and sets out the management and authorisation arrangements for the avoidance of doubt by organisations undertaking due diligence on MPF as an investee company or as a financial services provider, or for purposes of overseas jurisdiction.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The current approved signatories are:

Strategic Director Transformation & Resources
Director of Resources
Head of Financial Services
Head of Business Processes
Principal Pensions Officer
Operations Manager
Group Accountant
Member Services Manager
Member Services Manager

Joe Blott
Vivienne Quayle
Thomas W. Sault
Malcolm J. Flanagan
Yvonne M. Caddock
Guy W. Hayton
Donna Smith
Margaret M. Rourke
Susan J. Roberts

- 2.2 These responsibilities will include powers to open, close and amend bank accounts; authorise instructions for payment of benefits and for investment transactions; sign manual cheques and countersign cheques over £10,000 in respect of accounts with the Fund's bankers (Lloyds Banking Group), with the Global Custodian (Northern Trust), and with other financial institutions

including those detailed in the Fund's Treasury Management Strategy. The officers will also be authorised to sign investment documentation.

- 2.3 For reasons of internal control, the following officers are empowered to authorise investment decisions and relevant investment documentation, but without powers to authorise the transfer of monies through the electronic banking/Custodian system:

Head of Pension Fund	Peter J. Wallach
Senior Investment Manager	Leyland K. Otter
Investment Manager	Linda Desforges

The named officer for Investment Manager has changed with the new appointment into this post.

- 2.4 Other officers can make investment decisions up to their limits as specified in the Compliance Manual approved by Pensions Committee, 24 March 2014.
- 2.5 Authorisation of the monthly pension payroll is undertaken by approved authorised signatories based at MPF.
- 2.6 For the avoidance of doubt, the Strategic Director Transformation and Resources can designate officers of MPF to exercise powers of attorney on behalf of MPF and Wirral Council. Any two of the following officers of MPF may exercise powers of attorney on behalf of MPF and Wirral Council:

Head of Pension Fund	Peter J. Wallach
Senior Investment Manager	Leyland K. Otter
Investment Manager	Linda Desforges
Principal Pensions Officer	Yvonne M. Caddock
Group Accountant	Donna Smith

The named officer for Investment Manager has changed with the new appointment into this post and the Group Accountant has been added to this list.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 It is essential that the Fund maintains strong internal controls and that arrangements which designate those individuals who may authorise transactions are clearly documented. Without the appropriate number of authorising officers, there is a risk of delayed transactions and settlement of trades. This could manifest itself both as financial risk, as there could be a cost due to delayed transactions and settlements, and as a reputational risk to MPF in financial markets.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No other options have been considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 There has been no consultation undertaken or proposed for this report. There are no implications for partner organisations arising from this report.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 There are no previously approved actions outstanding.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no carbon usage implications, nor any other relevant environmental issues arising from this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising from this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 That Members approve the arrangements set out in section 2 of this report in relation to the internal control arrangements at Merseyside Pension Fund.

13.2 That Members approve the officers designated in section 2 of this report as authorised signatories for Merseyside Pensions Fund.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Following a recruitment exercise at Merseyside Pension Fund it is necessary to update the list of authorised signatories.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Pensions Committee	19 November 2013
Cabinet	18 October 2012
Cabinet	15 March 2012
Pensions Committee	19 September 2011
Pensions Committee	27 June 2011
Pensions Committee	29 March 2011
Cabinet	17 March 2011