

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

15 NOVEMBER 2016

SUBJECT:	POOLING UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	NONE
REPORT OF:	MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DELIVERY
KEY DECISION?	NO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides Members with an update on pooling arrangements relating to MPF and the Northern Pool.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 At Pensions Committee on 22 September, Members were provided with the Fund's submission to Government in relation to the consultation on pooling within the LGPS. The report advised that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was expected to respond formally to the submission.

2.2 Since September's report, the Government has advised that the new Investment Regulations were laid before parliament on 23 September and come into force on 1 November 2016. In parallel, guidance was issued by DCLG on 'Preparing and Maintaining an Investment Strategy Statement'. The guidance requires funds to set out their approach to pooling. Further detail on this guidance is covered in a separate report on this agenda.

2.3 On 20 October, DCLG advised that the Minister wishes to meet representatives of each pool separately over the next month or so to respond to their final proposals and to set out his expectations for the rest of the programme. A date for the meeting has not yet been set.

2.4 The Fund's officers continue to work with pooling partners, particularly in relation to collaboration on Alternative investments.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Pooling will result in fundamental changes to oversight and management of LGPS assets. It is essential that appropriate governance arrangements are put in place to ensure that Pensions Committee can exercise its responsibilities in accordance with the Council's constitution.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 No other options have been considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Pooling consultation has been discussed with the Merseyside Directors of Finance and stakeholders have been kept informed of the pooling consultation and its implications.

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. The anticipated financial costs of establishing pooling arrangements and the projected savings over the long-term are set out in the Fund's pooling submission of 15 July 2016.

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 note the report.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Pooling will result in fundamental changes to oversight and management of LGPS assets.

REPORT AUTHOR: PETER WALLACH
Director of Pensions
telephone (0151) 2421309
email peterwallach@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date