

MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND

PENSION BOARD

14 SEPTEMBER 2020

SUBJECT:	REVISED WIRRAL PENSION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PENSIONS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs the Pension Board of proposed revisions to its Terms of Reference (ToR) following the recent statement from the Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) on the position of local pension board meetings during the COVID-19 emergency.
- 1.2 SAB has sought legal advice and now recommends that the ToR should be amended to provide for virtual meetings where it is not possible or practical for boards to meet in person.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Pension Board has operated effectively since July 2015 with the last revisions to the ToR's approved by full Council for adoption into the Council's constitution on 9 December 2019.
- 2.2 During the current pandemic and national emergency measures it is essential that the Pension Board find ways of exercising their statutory functions and it is clear that arranging virtual meetings satisfies the requirement of Regulation 106 (8) of the LGPS Regs 2013, which permit the board to undertake actions to facilitate the discharge of its functions.
- 2.3 In consideration of SAB's directive and the changing operating environment of statutory and regulatory committees, section two of the ToR have been expanded to include paragraph 2.4 & 2.5 which permit virtual meetings using video and telephone conferencing technology and define the terms of attendance.

A new section 5, **Virtual meetings**, has also been drafted which sets out the operational practicalities, etiquette, voting procedure and troubleshooting in the event of failure of the remote participation facility.

3.0 Recommendation for Decision

The draft ToR are attached as an appendix to this report for review and approval by the Pension Board to ensure it continues to exercise its statutory function in circumstances where a virtual event is necessary due to emergency measures imposed by national or local government departments.

**REPORT
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