



LOCAL PENSION BOARD

27 SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT TITLE:	NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PENSIONS

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides Board Members with 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 are appended for noting.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Local Pension Board be recommended to note the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Pooling is resulting in fundamental changes to the oversight and management of Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) assets and it is important that Board Members are informed of all developments affecting the Fund.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other suitable options. It is an audit recommendation that minutes of the Northern LGPS joint committee meetings are reported to Pensions Committee and, by extension, the Local Pension Board.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Northern LGPS Investment pool was established between Merseyside, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire Pension Funds in response to the revised LGPS Investment Regulations 2016 which were, in part, designed to facilitate the pooling of assets between LGPS funds and improve access to infrastructure investments.
- 3.2 Minutes of the previous Northern LGPS joint committee meeting are attached at appendix 1.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report. The operating costs of the Pool are reported annually and shared equitably between the participating funds.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 LGPS funds are required to pool their assets in order to comply with Regulation 7(2)(d) of the 2016 Investment Regulations. The regulation requires administering authorities to set out their 'approach to pooling investments, including the use of collective investment vehicles and shared services' in their Investment Strategy Statement.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report. The Joint Committee provides monitoring and oversight of the operations of the Northern LGPS Pool.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Pooling has resulted in fundamental changes to oversight and management of LGPS assets. It is essential that Pensions Committee exercises its governance responsibilities in accordance with the Council's constitution.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There has been no consultation planned or undertaken for this report. There are no implications for partner organisations arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environment and climate implications arising from this report. The Northern LGPS has a Responsible Investment policy explicitly addresses environment and climate implications as financially material to long-term performance of investments.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Minutes of Joint Committee meetings.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government Pension Scheme: Investment Reform, Criteria & Guidance

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Pension Board in accordance with Section 13.2 (b) of its Terms of Reference:

- (b) Review management, administrative and governance processes and procedures in order to ensure they remain compliant with the Regulations, relevant legislation and in particular the Code.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
The Northern LGPS update is a standing agenda item on the Local Pension Board.	