

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

6 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

POLICY ON COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS AND EMPLOYING AUTHORITIES

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In accordance with the Scheme Regulations the Authority is required to regularly review and publish a statement of policy concerning how it communicates with members and employing authorities.
- 1.2 Members are recommended to approve the draft updated statement on Communication Policy attached (Appendix 1).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Administering authorities have been required to publish a Communications Policy Statement since 1 April 2006 with the requirements previously set out in Regulation 106B of the LGPS Regulations 1997.
- 2.2 Following consultation with stakeholders the content of the current statement was agreed by Committee on 7 March 2006 (Minute 72 refers). A reformatted version in line with an updated design style was published in November 2007.
- 2.3 Since 1 April 2008 the regulatory requirement has been contained in Regulation 67 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008, which sets out that:-

The Administering Authority -

- (a) must keep the statement under review,
- (b) must make such revisions as are appropriate following a material change in its policy on any of the matters mentioned in the following paragraph; and
- (c) if revisions are made, publish the statement as revised.

The matters are—

- (a) the provision of information and publicity about the Scheme to members, representatives of members and employing authorities;
- (b) the format, frequency and method of distributing such information or publicity; and
- (c) the promotion of the Scheme to prospective members and their employers.

2.4 The updated Communications Policy Statement reflects a number of developments that have taken place including; new initiatives such as the Scheme DVD, the technical newsletter "Update" now produced for employers and the appointment of a Press and Public Relations Officer to ensure press enquiries are dealt with appropriately. There is also an updated matrix showing details of the availability of MPF publications and frequency of production.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are none directly arising from this report. .

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no staffing implications.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no equal opportunity implications.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no human rights implications.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

8. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no Member support implications.

9. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no agenda 21 implications.

10. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no planning implications.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None were used in producing this report.

12. RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That Members approve the updated Communications Policy Statement.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE