

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE

6 APRIL 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

UPDATED GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides details of the updated Governance Compliance Statement which MPF is required to publish to reflect recent changes made in order to ensure full compliance with the best practice standards issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
- 1.2. Members are recommended to approve the updated Compliance Statement attached (Appendix 1).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Pensions Committee last considered this matter at its meeting on 14 January 2009 (Minute 71 refers), when I reported that the DCLG had issued statutory guidance on governance compliance with the requirements set out in Regulation 31 of the LGPS (Administration) Regulations 2008.
- 2.2. The current Governance Compliance Statement was agreed by the Pensions Committee on 28 January 2008 (Minute 79 refers) and confirmed at that time that MPF was not fully compliant in the following areas: -
 - Confirmation of arrangements for representation for pensioner and deferred members.
 - Consolidated documentation to ensure Members of the Pensions Committee are fully aware of the status, role and function they are required to perform.
 - Documentation on the policy of voting rights for Committee Members including justification for any restrictions.
 - Documentation on the policy for training, facility time and reimbursement of expenses for all Members of the Committee.

3. PROGRESS MADE WITH ACHIEVING FULL COMPLIANCE

- 3.1. MPF is now fully compliant with the latest best practice guidance issued by the DCLG on 3 December 2008 and a revised compliance statement confirming this is attached at appendix 1 to this report.

- 3.2. Following discussions with the two employee representatives currently appointed to the Committee they have both agreed to undertake the task of representing the interests of pensioner and deferred members. This fact will be publicised to members via the MPF website and Scheme newsletters.
- 3.3. Having regard to the results of the consultation with stakeholders in 2008 as to whether voting rights should be extended to employee representatives, Committee agreed to retain for the time being the current arrangements in respect of observer status for employee representatives and this is set out in the revised Compliance Statement which is attached for approval.
- 3.4. Consolidated documentation which clearly sets out the existing policy on training, expenses and the status and role of Committee Members was circulated to Members at the 14 January 2009 meeting of the Committee. This **Members' Induction Pack** has also since been made available electronically on a secure area of the MPF website.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. There are none directly arising from this report.

5. **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There are none arising from this report.

6. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. There are none arising from this report.

7. **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are none arising from this report.

8. **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. There are none arising from this report.

9. **PLANNING LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are none arising from this report.

10. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are none arising from this report.

11. **MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. There are none arising from this report.

12. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 DCLG letter dated 3 December 2008 and Statutory Guidance Note.

13 **RECOMMENDATION**

13.1 That Members approve the updated governance compliance statement.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FNCE/59/09