

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE 3 FEBRUARY 2020

SUBJECT:	MEMBERS' DEVELOPMENT 2020
WARD/S AFFECTED:	NONE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PENSIONS
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an outline of the proposed programme for member development in 2020.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The CIPFA Pensions Panel has developed a technical knowledge and skills framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme. The framework was adopted by Pensions Committee in 2010 as demonstrating best practice and enables the Fund to determine that it has the appropriate mix of knowledge and skills necessary to discharge its governance requirements. It also assists Members in planning their training and development needs.
- 2.2 An outline training programme is attached as an appendix to this report. It is comprised of a series of internal and external training events throughout the year. Individual papers will be brought to consider and approve attendance at each event and, as and when officers become aware of other appropriate events, Committee will be informed.
- 2.3 When relevant, formal training sessions are included in Investment Monitoring Working Parties. Additionally, presentations by external professional organisations and the deliberative nature of all the working parties mean that attendance is regarded as an important element of Member development.
- 2.4 The Local Government Pensions Committee-organised 'Fundamentals' course is considered essential for all members to complete. It provides a comprehensive overview of the LGPS and the 'trustee' role carried out by those serving on a pension committee/panel. The course takes place over three days (during October – December), at multiple dates and in multiple locations (Cardiff, Leeds & London). While considered essential for new members, longer serving members of Pensions Committee may also benefit from refresher training.

- 2.7 It is a statutory requirement that the Fund's annual report includes detailed information on training events offered and attended by elected members. A register of Members' attendance at training and development events is kept and reviewed annually by the Governance & Risk Working Party.
- 2.8 Appendix 2 contains information on two forthcoming training and development opportunities.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 Failure to maintain an appropriate level of knowledge and skills, commensurate with that thought appropriate for those acting in a trustee-like role in the LGPS, may impair effective decision-making. Suitable and effective training and development activity should assist in mitigating this risk.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Based on an ongoing assessment of training needs, there may be the option of reverting to stand-alone training and development events.

5.0 CONSULTATION

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

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

- 6.1 None

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 Provision for Member training and development is included in the Fund's annual operating budget.

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 none 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 and approve the proposed training and development plan for 2020.

13.2 That Committee considers if it wishes to send a delegation to attend the conference(s) in appendix 2 and, if so, to determine the number and allocation of places.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 The requirement for good governance in the LGPS to be underpinned by informed decision-making, combined with the increasing complexity of financial markets and investment strategies, makes ongoing training and development an essential element of Members' responsibilities.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Development Programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date
Pensions Committee	January 2019
Pensions Committee	January 2018
Pensions Committee	January 2017

APPENDIX 1

<u>MONTH (2020)</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REPRESENTATION*</u>
23 - 24 January	LGPS Governance Conference	
27 - 28 February	LGC Investment Summit, Chester	All Members
25 February	Investment Monitoring Working Party	All Members
11 - 13 March	PLSA Investment Conference, Edinburgh	Chair
18 - 20 May	PLSA Local Authority Conference, Cotswolds	Party Spokespersons
16 June	Investment Monitoring Working Party	All Members
July	CIPFA Conference	Chair
9 - 11 September	LGC Investment Seminar, York	Party Spokespersons
15 September	Investment Monitoring Working Party	All Members
October	Local Government Pension Investment Forum	Party Spokespersons
14-16 October	PLSA Annual Conference, Liverpool	All Members
17 November	Investment Monitoring Working Party	All Members
November	Annual Employers Conference, Aintree	All Members
October – December	Fundamentals training days; multiple dates & locations	All Members
December	LAPFF Annual Conference, Bournemouth	Party Spokespersons

**Reflects previous attendance*

APPENDIX 2

EVENT	LGC Investment Seminar CONVERTING 2020 VISION INTO A SUCCESSFUL INVESTMENT STRATEGY
SUMMARY	<p>The market value of the Local Government Pension Scheme funds in England and Wales at the end of March 2019 was £287.2 billion, an increase of £16.3 billion or 6%.</p> <p>The most recent valuation results are showing that overall the funding levels have improved again. Nevertheless, employers face funding pressures and considerable financial uncertainties, so can these improvements be protected and maintained? Attend the LGC Investment seminar to better understand these issues and gain insight on how to address this major issue.</p> <p>https://investmentseminar.lgcplus.com/sites/investmentseminar.lgcplus.com/files/LGC%20Investment%20Seminar%202020%20-%20brochure.pdf</p>
VENUE	Chester
DATE(S)	27-28 February 2020
COST	£569+VAT
EVENT	PLSA Local Authority Conference
SUMMARY	<p>The PLSA Local Authority Conference is a must attend event for anyone involved in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) – a residential conference that includes keynote speeches, stream sessions, a Learning Zone, a specialist session, an exclusive exhibition, networking lunch for Local Pension Boards, Welcome Drinks Reception and a Conference Dinner.</p> <p>The event is the largest of its kind dedicated to the LGPS, attended by over 400 local authority officers, councillors, members of Local Pension Boards, admitted bodies and their advisers.</p> <p>https://www.plsa.co.uk/Events-Local-Authority-Conference</p>
VENUE	Gloucestershire
DATE(S)	18-20 May 2020
COST	£420+VAT