

MINUTES OF THE PENSIONS COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH APRIL, 2022, 6.00 - 6.35 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Yvonne Say (Chair), Councillor Eldridge Culverwell (Vice-Chair), Councillor Dana Carlin, Councillor Viv Ross, Councillor Paul Dennison, Ishmael Owarish, Craig Pattinson, and Keith Brown.

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and this information was noted.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Thomas Skeen, Randy Plowright, Alex Goddard (Mercer), Steve Turner (Mercer), and John Raisin (Independent Advisor).

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair proposed to bring forward the decision-making items on the agenda, items 10 and 14. This was agreed by the Pensions Committee and Board. The order of business was amended to take items 1-7, followed by item 10, then item 14, before returning to the advertised order of business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS / PRESENTATIONS / QUESTIONS

There were no deputations, petitions, presentations, or questions.

6. RECORD OF TRAINING UNDERTAKEN SINCE LAST MEETING

There had been no training since the last meeting.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Pensions Committee and Board meeting held on 2 December 2021 as a correct record.

8. PENSION ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The Head of Pensions & Treasury introduced the report that provided an update on the following Pension Fund's administration activities:

- Membership update;
- Resourcing of the pensions administration team;
- Pensions administration software procurement;
- Pensions administration service performance in 2021; and
- Update on McCloud remedy activities.

RESOLVED

To note this report and the information provided regarding the Pension Fund's administration activities.

9. PENSION FUND QUARTERLY INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Head of Pensions & Treasury introduced the report that provided the following updates for the quarter ended 31 December 2021:

- Independent advisor's market commentary;
- Investment asset allocation;
- Investment performance;
- Funding position update;
- London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV) update; and
- External audit update.

RESOLVED

To note the information provided in section 6 of the report in respect of the activity for the quarter ended 31 December 2021.

10. UPDATED CIPFA GUIDANCE AND HARINGEY TRAINING POLICY

The Head of Pensions & Treasury highlighted that members had been informally updated on this agenda item at the inquorate meeting on 15 March 2022. He reviewed what had been discussed at this meeting outlining:

- The details of the changes that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) had made to its pensions, knowledge, and skills guidance;

- Presentation of the revised training policy for members of the Pensions Committee and Board and Senior Fund Officers. This was pertinent due to the forthcoming local elections, that would result in new members joining the Committee. The policy outlined how a training programme would be developed for new and existing members of the Pensions Committee and Board.

RESOLVED

1. To note the Independent Advisor's papers, appended as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report, and the advice contained therein.
2. To approve the adoption of the CIPFA 2021 Code of Practice on Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Knowledge and Skills as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report. The adoption of this 2021 Code of Practice will be applicable to Pensions Committee and Board Members, and Senior Fund Officers.
3. To approve the Training Policy for Pension Committee and Board Members, and Senior Fund Officers of March 2022 (attached as Appendix 2 to this report).

11. LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUND FORUM (LAPFF) VOTING UPDATE

The Head of Pensions & Treasury stated that the report provided an update the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum's (LAPFF) engagement and voting activities on behalf of the Pension Fund.

RESOLVED

To note the information provided in section 6 of the report in respect of the activity for the quarter ended 31 December 2021.

12. RISK REGISTER

The Head of Pensions & Treasury gave an update on the Pension Fund's risk register.

This paper provides an update on the Pension Fund's risk register and an opportunity for the Committee and Board to further review the risk score allocation. The following was highlighted. The risk register focused on investment risk which looked at high inflationary risk and increasing geopolitical risk.

RESOLVED

To note the Pension Fund's risk register.

13. FORWARD PLAN

The Head of Pensions & Treasury introduced the forward plan illustrating that it aimed to identify topics that would arise in the next twelve months at subsequent committee meetings.

RESOLVED

To note the forward plan.

14. PROPERTY PORTFOLIO REVIEW

The Head of Pensions & Treasury highlighted that members had been informally updated on this agenda item at the inquorate meeting on 15 March 2022. He reviewed what had been discussed at this meeting outlining:

- The Pension Fund currently had an underweight position to its property allocation. The Pensions Committee and Board was presented with various options to address this. The following options were:
 - o Agree a top-up with Aviva Lime Property Fund of £30 million; and
 - o Update the Pension Fund's strategic asset allocation within the Investment Strategy Statement as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To note Mercer's Review of Property Portfolio Paper, appended as Confidential Appendix 1, and the advice contained therein.
2. To agree that the Pension Fund commits to invest an additional £30 million to the Aviva Lime Property Fund.
3. To approve a change to the Pension Fund's strategic asset allocation within the Investment Strategy Statement, as shown in Confidential Appendix 1, namely to:
 - i. Reduce the allocation to Core Property (managed by CBRE), from 7.5% to 6.5%.
 - ii. Reduce the allocation to Core Property (managed by CBRE), from 7.5% to 6.5%.
4. To delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer) to implement the above changes (if approved), after consultation with the Chair of Pensions Committee and Board. This will include determining whether to make a commitment to the Long Lease Property strategy through the 'queue', or whether to seek to purchase units in the fund on the secondary market. This will be done after taking proper advice from the Pension Fund's investment consultant.
5. To delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Finance to update and republish the Pension Fund's Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) to be consistent with the decisions made above.

15. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the (provisional) dates of future meetings were:

Tuesday, 12 July 2022

Monday, 12 September 2022

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Monday, 23 January 2023

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of items 18-21 as they contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 3 and 5; namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

18. PENSION FUND QUARTERLY UPDATE AND INVESTMENTS UPDATE

The Pensions Committee and Board considered the exempt information.

A member noted that information in reports and appendices could be presented differently for clarity. The Head of Pensions & Treasury agreed to liaise with the member about possible amendments.

19. PROPERTY PORTFOLIO REVIEW

The Pensions Committee and Board considered the exempt information.

20. EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED

To confirm and sign the exempt minutes of the Pensions Committee and Board meeting on 2 December 2021 as a correct record.

21. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of exempt urgent business.

CHAIR: Councillor Yvonne Say

Signed by Chair

Date