

**Report for:** Pensions Committee and Board – 5 March 2024

**Item number:**

**Title:** Forward Plan

**Report**

**authorised by:** Josephine Lyseight, Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer)

**Lead Officer:** Tim Mpofu, Head of Pensions and Treasury  
[tim.mpofu@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:tim.mpofu@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/**

**Non Key Decision:** Non Key Decision

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

1.1. This paper has been prepared to identify and agree upon the key priorities for the Pensions Committee and Board (PCB) over the upcoming months, as well as seek the PCB's input into future agendas.

## **2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

2.1. Not applicable

## **3. Recommendations**

The Pensions Committee and Board is recommended:

3.1. To note the progress made towards the agreed key priorities outlined in section 6 of this report, specifically in relation to the investment strategy review, responsible investment policy and fund governance review.

3.2. To identify additional matters and training requirements for inclusion within the Pensions Committee and Board's forward plan.

## **4. Reason for Decision**

4.1. Not applicable.

## **5. Other options considered**

5.1. Not applicable.

## **6. Background information**

6.1. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations require that those responsible for the governance, decision making, and operational functions of the pension scheme must acquire and maintain the necessary knowledge and skills to appropriately carry out of their duties.

6.2. To support this requirement, it is best practice for a pension fund to maintain a work plan. The high-level plan, which outlines the anticipated key activities in the areas of governance, scheme members/employers, investments, and accounting over the next few months, has been included as Appendix 1 of this paper.

**Overview of Investment Strategy Review Process**

6.3. According to the LGPS Regulations, administering authorities are required to formulate, publish, and maintain an Investment Strategy Statement (ISS). The ISS must be kept under regular review and revised from to time, and at least once every three years.

6.4. Following a comprehensive review of the ISS, the PCB agreed a revised version of the ISS at its meeting held on 30 January 2024. As part of this review, the PCB agreed to revise its strategic asset allocation and an implementation plan has been developed by officers with a target completion date of 31 March 2024.

**Key Priorities Identified**

6.5. One of the key priority areas identified during the ISS review was related to the Fund's Environmental, Governance and Social (ESG) policy. The PCB has agreed to a comprehensive review of the ESG policy including the development of a standalone Responsible Investment Policy. In addition to this, a review of the fund's governance was also identified as a key priority area.

6.6. As a result, the following key priorities have been added to the proposed work plan for the next 9-12 months, detailed below.

Activity	Objective	Key Dates	Progress Update
<b>Agree any changes to ISS</b>	Following the completion of process of setting investment objectives, the PCB has agreed a new ISS.  The revised investment strategy included a new allocation to fixed income which is expected to be implemented by 31 March 2024.	November 2023 – March 2024	On track for completion
<b>Setting responsible investment objectives</b>	The PCB is currently developing the Fund's responsible investment policy. This work will include establishing medium to long-term goals and defining the criteria for investment selection.	February 2024 – December 2024	Initial stages of development
<b>Fund governance review</b>	Following the publication of the revised Code of Practice issued by the Pensions Regulator, the Fund plans to undertake a fund governance review.	March 2024 – December 2024	Initial stages of development

Activity	Objective	Key Dates	Progress Update
<b>Investment opportunities review</b>	Upcoming areas of review will include, evaluating the Fund's listed equities allocation and conducting a thorough review of the Fund's private markets allocation throughout 2024.	June 2024 – January 2025	Initial stages of development

- 6.7. The Pensions Committee and Board (PCB) is invited to provide comments on the proposed work plan above and suggest any necessary amendments. This will enable officers to ensure that members receive the necessary support to inform their decisions.

### **Knowledge and Skills**

- 6.8. The PCB has adopted the revised CIPFA 2021 Code of Practice on Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Knowledge and Skills which was issued in June 2021.
- 6.9. The appendices attached to this paper set out the PCB's current work plan over the next 12 months, including the Training Plan. The PCB is requested to consider whether it wishes to amend any future agenda items as set out in the papers.

## **7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes**

- 7.1. Not applicable

## **8. Carbon and climate change**

- 8.1. Haringey Pension Fund is committed to being a responsible investor, which involves engaging with and encouraging companies to take positive action on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.
- 8.2. As part of the planned investment strategy review, the Pensions Committee and Board will assess the Pension Fund's responsible investment goals and criteria for investment selection. This includes an approach to managing and monitoring risks related to climate change.

## **9. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### Finance and Procurement

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

### Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

- 9.2. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance has been consulted on the content of this report. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. However, legal advice will be required in due course in respect of the investment strategy to ensure compliance with legislation.

Equalities

9.3. Not applicable.

**10. Use of Appendices**

10.1. Appendix 1: Forward Plan

10.2. Appendix 2: Training Plan

**11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

11.1. Not applicable.