



LONDON BOROUGH OF  
**HARROW**

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**REPORT FOR: Pension Board**

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**Date of Meeting:**

12th July 2023

**Subject:**

Review of Pension Fund Governance  
Compliance Statement

**Responsible Officer:**

Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance and  
Assurance

**Exempt:**

No

**Wards affected:**

Not applicable

**Enclosures:**

Appendix 1 – Governance Compliance  
Statement

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report reviews the Pension Fund's Governance Compliance Statement. The document was last reviewed by the Committee on 19 September 2022.

### **Recommendations:**

The Board is requested to

- i. Note the latest position on the LGPS Good Governance Review,
- ii. Consider the updated Governance Compliance Statement and comment as appropriate.

## **Section 2 – Report**

1. The "Good Governance Review" which was reported to the Board in January 2020 was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The final (Phase 3) Report on this subject was published by the Scheme Advisory Board in February 2021, and the Report's Action plan was submitted to the Local Government Minister for consideration. It is expected that Regulations will be published later in 2022 incorporating many of the Review's recommendations.
2. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013 (Regulation 55) require the Administering Authority for the Fund to prepare a written statement setting out:
  - whether the authority delegates its function, or part of its functions under the Regulations to a committee, a sub-committee or an officer of the authority;
  - if so, the way in which the delegation operates, including membership of the Committee, voting rights, frequency of meetings etc;
  - details of the arrangements for the local Pension Board.The Governance Compliance Statement fulfils this requirement.
3. The Fund's Governance Compliance statement was last reviewed in September 2022. It is good practice to review it regularly and to update it if required.
4. The revised Governance Compliance Statement is enclosed at Appendix 1. The Committee will be asked to consider this, and subject to any suggested modifications, to approve it for adoption. In view of the likelihood of new Regulations, no significant changes are proposed to the current Governance Compliance Statement at this time.
5. The document will be considered by the Pension Fund Committee at its meeting in July 2023, and the Board's comments will be reported to the Committee.
6. A further report will be brought to the Board once new LGPS Regulations are published, together with any required changes to the Fund's governance arrangements.

## **Legal Implications**

7. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
8. The terms of reference for the Board include the Board's role as set out in the following paragraphs.
9. The role of the Board, as defined by sections 5(1) and (2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, is to assist the Administering Authority (London Borough of Harrow) as Scheme Manager in ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) including:
  - securing compliance with the LGPS regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS;
  - securing compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
  - such other matters the LGPS regulations may specify.
10. The Administering Authority retains ultimate responsibility for the administration and governance of the scheme. The role of the Board is to support the Administering Authority to fulfil that responsibility.
11. In its role, The Board will have oversight of the administration of the fund including:
  - a. The effectiveness of the decision-making process
  - b. The direction of the Fund and its overall objectives
  - c. The level of transparency in the conduct of the Fund's activities
  - d. The administration of benefits and contributions
12. The Board will provide the Scheme Manager with such information as it requires to ensure that any Member of the Board or person to be appointed to the Board does not have a conflict of interest.
13. The Board will ensure it effectively and efficiently complies with the Code of Practice on the Governance and Administration of Public Service Pension Schemes issued by the Pensions Regulator. It will help to ensure that the Fund is managed in the same way.
14. The Board shall meet sufficiently regularly to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively.

## **Financial Implications**

15. Whilst the performance and effective controls of the fund managers is of paramount importance in the performance of the Pension Fund, there are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Risk Management Implications**

16. There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report. The Pension Fund's Risk Register is reviewed regularly by both the Committee and by the Pension Board.

## **Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

17. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No  
There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

## **Council Priorities**

18. The performance of the Pension Fund directly affects the level of employer contribution which then, in turn, affects the resources available for the Council's priorities.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

**Statutory Officer: Dawn Calvert**

Signed by the Chief Financial Officer

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**

**Statutory Officer: Caroline Eccles**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Chief Officer: Dawn Calvert**

Signed on behalf of the Corporate Director

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified: NO**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Bola Tobun – Treasury and Pensions Manager

Email: [Bola.Tobun@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Bola.Tobun@harrow.gov.uk)

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**Background Papers:**

- LGPS Good Governance Review Phase 3 Report - [https://www.lgpsboard.org/images/Other/Good\\_Governance\\_Final\\_Report\\_February\\_2021.pdf](https://www.lgpsboard.org/images/Other/Good_Governance_Final_Report_February_2021.pdf)