

REPORT FOR: Pension Fund Committee

Date of Meeting:	25 March 2015
Subject:	Training Programme 2015-16
Responsible Officer:	Simon George, Director of Finance and Assurance
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix – Training Programme for 7 July 2014

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation

Summary

The Committee is asked to consider and agree upon a training programme for 2015-16.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to consider and agree upon a training programme for 2015-16.

Section 2 – Report

1. The CIPFA publication *Principles for Investment Decision Making and Disclosure in the Local Government Pension Scheme in the United Kingdom 2012* endorsed by the Department for Local Government and Communities set out guidance on best practice principles in respect of the governance of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

2. Within this publication Principle 1, *Effective Decision Making* states:

Administering Authorities should ensure that:

- *Decisions are taken by persons or organisations with the skills, knowledge, advice and resources necessary to make them effectively and monitor implementation; and*
- *Those persons or organisations have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate and challenge the advice they receive, and manage conflicts of interest.*

3. CIPFA has further developed the concepts described above in its publication *Pensions Finance Knowledge and Skills Framework – Technical Guidance for Elected Representatives and Non-executives in the Public Sector*. There are six areas of knowledge and skills relating to the Local Government Pension Scheme which CIPFA has identified as being the core technical requirements for those involved in decision making as follows:

- Legislative and governance context;
- Accounting and auditing standards
- Procurement of financial services and relationship management
- Investment performance and risk management
- Financial markets and investment products; and
- Actuarial methods, standards and practices

4. It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that those involved in decision making, primarily the Pension Fund Committee receive the training necessary to ensure that these core requirements are met.

5. Since the Committee were appointed at the Annual Council meeting on 12 June 2014 the following training has taken place:

7 July 2014

6. As an introduction to most of the issues listed above a presentation, with appropriate documentation, was given for all Members and Reserve Members of the Committee as follows:

- Governance and key legislation
- Glossary of investment and pension words
- Asset classes
- Annual report
- Governance Compliance statement
- Communications Policy Statement
- A brief guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme

- Statement of Investment Principles
- Funding Strategy Statement
- Actuarial Methodology
- 2013 Actuarial Valuation
- Example of WM Performance Review
- LGPS Governance Regulations (Pension Board)

Attached as the Appendix is the detailed agenda

Three Members of the Committee and two reserve members were able to attend.

June – July 2014

7. All Members of the Committee were given the opportunity to attend three all-day training sessions run by Aon Hewitt as follows:
 - Governance and Key Legislation
 - Funding and Actuarial Matters
 - Investments

Several Members were able to attend one or more of these sessions.

23 September 2014

8. At the meeting of the Committee the Members in attendance received a presentation on Performance Measurement from State Street Investment Analytics (WM Performance Services).

26 November 2014

9. At the meeting of the Committee all Members received a presentation on Transition Management from State Street Global Markets.
10. In addition they received “training” documentation from Aon Hewitt in respect of Fixed Income Investments and Strategic Currency Hedging.
11. Whilst many of the relevant requirements have been met it is appropriate for the Committee to agree a training programme for the year 2015-16. The Committee is invited to comment on and agree the following draft programme:

23 June 2015

Private Equity Investment
Property Investment

September / November 2015

Responsible and Ethical Investment
Liability Driven Investment

March 2016

Infrastructure and local investing

12. Members will be kept advised of other training opportunities as they arise.

Financial Implications

13. No direct financial implications arise from this report.

Risk Management Implications

14. There are a number of risks associated with the Fund's decision making arrangements and these are considered in a separate risk register for the Fund elsewhere on the agenda.

Equalities implications

15. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

Council Priorities

8. Management of the Fund has a direct impact on its financial health which 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

Name Simon George	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director of Finance and Assurance
Date: 16 March 2015		
Name: Caroline Eccles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 16 March 2015		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details

Contact: Ian Talbot, Treasury and Pension Fund Manager
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Background Papers - None