

## **Report for: Pension Board**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	4 March 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Review of Pension Fund Communications Policy
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Dawn Calvert – Director of Finance and Assurance
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 – Revised Communications Policy

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

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This report reviews the Pension Fund's Communications Policy and updates it to reflect current methods of operating.

#### **Recommendations:**

The Board is requested to consider the updated Communications Policy and to recommend it to the Pension Fund Committee for approval and adoption.

### **Section 2 – Report**

1. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013 (Regulation 61) require the Fund to have a Communications Policy.
2. The Harrow Pension Fund's Communications Policy was last reviewed in March 2018. It is therefore appropriate to review and update the policy, in particular to reflect the significant changes to our ways of working which have been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. In reviewing the Policy, the opportunity has been taken to consider how other LGPS funds' policies reflect the shift to more modern ways of working.

4. The revised policy is enclosed at Appendix 1. The Board is asked to consider this, and subject to any suggested modifications, to recommend it to the Pension Fund Committee for approval / adoption.

## **Legal Implications**

5. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **Financial Implications**

6. 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**

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

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

8. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No
9. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, the Policy includes provision for providing documents in non-standard formats to meet the needs of those scheme members require those.

## **Council Priorities**

10. 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: 09/02/2021**

**Statutory Officer: David Hodge**  
Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 10/02/2021**

**Chief Officer: Charlie Stewart**  
Signed by the Corporate Director

**Date: 09/02/2021**

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified: NO**

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

**Contact:** Jeremy Randall – Interim Pensions Manager  
Email: [Jeremy.randall@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Jeremy.randall@harrow.gov.uk)  
Telephone 020 8736 6552

**Background Papers:** None