

Report for: Pension Board

Date of Meeting:	4 March 2021
Subject:	Pension Board Members' Training
Responsible Officer:	Dawn Calvert – Director of Finance and Assurance
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report reviews Pension Board members' training arrangements and asks Board members to consider what training they require.

Recommendations:

The Board is requested to note the report and to identify if there is any specific training they wish officers to organise.

Section 2 – Report

1. The Pension Board's Terms of Reference include the following requirements in respect of Board members' knowledge and skills

“Following appointment each member of the Board should be conversant with:

- *The legislation and associated guidance of the LGPS*
- *Any document recording policy about the administration of the LGPS which is for the time being adopted by the Fund*

The Administering Authority will provide a training programme which all Board members will be required to attend.

It is for individual Board members to be satisfied that they have the appropriate degree of knowledge and understanding to enable them, properly, to exercise their functions as a Member of the Board and therefore, must comply with the Board's Knowledge and Understanding and Training Policy."

2. When the Board was set up in 2015, an initial training course was offered to ensure that Board members were able to carry out their role effectively from the outset. Subsequently, Board members have undertaken a range of training, tailored to their specific requirements.
3. The Board last reviewed training at its meeting in September 2017. At that meeting it considered the CIPFA publication "*Local Pension Boards – A Technical Knowledge and Skills Framework*" which was developed in partnership with Barnett Waddingham. At that time, Board members expressed the view that they could form their own training scheme and did not need to sign up to a particular programme as members would have differing needs. It was agreed at that time that if a Board member attended training it would be useful to receive a short note on the content.
4. As agreed at the last meeting, a proforma training log was circulated to all Board members, who were asked to fill it in and return. At the time of writing this report, not all Board members' returns had been received.
5. Officers will circulate details of relevant courses, training and websites that may be of interest to Board members. Barnett Waddingham and CIPFA offer courses tailored to Pension Board members, and other training is offered by Hymans Robertson, Aon and the PLSA. The Pension Fund Committee holds training sessions before each of its meetings, and Board members are invited to those sessions.
6. The cost of attending any courses provided by external organisations will be met by the Pension Fund.

Legal Implications

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

Financial Implications

8. The Pension Fund has a budget for Board members' training and the costs of external provision will be charged to the Fund accordingly.

Risk Management Implications

9. 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

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

Council Priorities

12. 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: 11/02/2021

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: 10/02/2021

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

Telephone 020 8736 6552

Background Papers: None