

**Report for: Pension Fund  
Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 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>	List Ward(s) affected by decision. <b>All</b>
<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. The Pension Board reviewed the document on 4 March and its comments are included below.

### **Recommendations:**

The Committee is requested to consider the updated Communications Policy and to approve it for adoption from 1 April 2021.

## **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, including to reflect the significant changes in 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 Pension Board considered this at its meeting on 4 March 2021 and recommended it to the Committee for adoption as drafted. The Committee is asked to consider this, and subject to any suggested modifications, to approve it for adoption from 1 April 2021.

## **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 this Committee and by the Pension 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: Sharon Daniels**

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

**Date: 09/03/2021**

**Statutory Officer: David Hodge**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 09/03/2021**

**Chief Officer: Charlie Stewart**

Signed by the Corporate Director

**Date: 09/03/2021**

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified: NO**

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

**Contact:** Jeremy Randall – Interim Pensions Manager

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**Background Papers:** None