

**Report for: Pension Fund
Committee**

Date of Meeting:	13 September 2021
Subject:	Good Governance Review Update
Responsible Officer:	Dawn Calvert – Director of Finance and Assurance
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	Not applicable
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Further to the training session held before the Committee’s last meeting, this report sets out a proposed approach to ensure that the Fund is ready for the implementation of the Good Governance Review in 2022.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to consider and approve the proposed approach to preparing for the review as set out in the report.

Section 2 – Report

1. The LGPS “Good Governance Review” began in 2019. Its implementation has been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, but earlier in 2021 the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board published a Phase 3 Report – this is now with the Government (MHCLG) for implementation. Before the Committee’s last meeting, Ian Colvin of Hymans Robertson (who as well as being the Harrow Fund’s actuaries, also advised the SAB during the Review). In that session

the Committee was advised of the key issues arising from the Review. This report sets out a proposed approach to ensuring that Harrow is ready for the Review's implementation in 2022.

2. A key aspect of the Review is the requirement to ensure that the Fund has in place up to date policies and other key documents, including

- Conflicts Management policy
- Representation Policy
- Administration strategy

As indicated in the training, it is important that the approach adopted is proportionate and appropriate – recognising that a “smaller” fund (most London Boroughs' funds will fall into this category) has differing requirements from a large County or former metropolitan authority fund.

3. Hymans Robertson have developed a suite of template LGPS policies which can be used / tailored to fit the Fund's specific requirements. Given the limited officer resource available to work on these aspects, and to ensure best use of that time, it is proposed to purchase relevant templates and customise those.
4. The Pension Board's remit includes supporting the authority in ensuring compliance with the relevant regulations and codes of practice. It is proposed that the Board could assist practically by reviewing the draft policies (one or two at each meeting), and changes suggested by the Board could then be incorporated before the policies are brought to the Committee for approval and adoption.

Legal Implications

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

Financial Implications

6. Whilst the financial health of the Pension Fund directly affects the level of employer contribution which, in turn, affects the resources available for the Council's priorities there are no impacts arising directly from this report.

Risk Management Implications

7. The Pension Fund's Risk Register is reviewed regularly by both this Committee and by the Pension Board. The latest review was carried out at the 24th June meeting of the Committee.
8. There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report. The level of risk to which its investments are exposed is a key component in developing the Fund's investment strategy.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

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

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: 31/08/2021

Statutory Officer: Joane Mohan

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 31/08/2021

Chief Officer: Charlie Stewart

Signed by the Corporate Director

Date: 31/08/2021

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: Not applicable

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Jeremy Randall – Interim Pensions Manager

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Background Papers: None