

## Report for: Pension Board

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	6 October 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Pension Board Members' Training
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Dawn Calvert – Director of Finance and Assurance
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	None

### Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

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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."*

The Board last reviewed training at its meeting in March 2021.

2. The CIPFA publication "*Local Pension Boards – A Technical Knowledge and Skills Framework*" which was developed in partnership with Barnett Waddingham provides a basis from which Board members can look to develop their knowledge of the LGPS. Board members have previously expressed the view that they each develop their own training scheme and did not need to sign up to a particular programme as members would have differing needs. This approach also recognises that Board members have a range of commitments and will fit training in around those.
3. As previously agreed, a proforma training log has been circulated to all Board members, who were asked to fill it in and return. At the time of writing this report, Board members' returns had been received.
4. 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 cost of attending any courses provided by external organisations will be met by the Pension Fund.
5. The Pension Fund Committee holds training sessions before each of its meetings, and Board members are invited to those sessions. Currently it is intended that the training session before the Committee's next meeting (on 24 November) will include a session on the forthcoming 2022 triennial valuation.
6. One of the requirements of the LGPS "Good Governance Review" will be that each Fund should develop a training strategy – the draft strategy, which will include appropriate suggestions for Pension Board members' training, will be brought to a future meeting.

## **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. The Pension Fund's Risk Register is reviewed regularly by both this Pension Fund Committee and by the Pension Board. The next review will be at the Board's meeting on 1 December 2021.

10. There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

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

11. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No  
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: 17/09/2021**

**Statutory Officer: Sharon Clarke**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 21/09/2021**

**Chief Officer: Dawn Calvert**

Signed on behalf of the Corporate Director

**Date: 17/09/2021**

## **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