



**Report for: Pension Fund
Committee**

Date of Meeting: 31 July 2023

Subject: Review of Pension Fund Governance
Compliance Statement

Responsible Officer: Dawn Calvert – Director of Finance
and Assurance

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Appendix 1 – Governance
Compliance Statement

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report reviews the Pension Fund's Governance Compliance Statement. The document was last reviewed by the Committee on 19 September 2022.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the latest position on the LGPS Good Governance Review;
2. Consider the updated Governance Compliance Statement and, subject to any comments, to approve it for adoption.

Section 2 – Report

1. The "Good Governance Review" which was reported to the Board in January 2020 was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The final (Phase 3) Report on this subject was published by the Scheme Advisory Board in February 2021, and the Report's Action plan was submitted to the Local Government Minister for consideration. It is expected that

Regulations will be published later in 2023 incorporating many of the Review's recommendations.

2. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013 (Regulation 55) require the Administering Authority for the Fund to prepare a written statement setting out:
 - whether the authority delegates its function, or part of its functions under the Regulations to a committee, a sub-committee or an officer of the authority;
 - if so, the way in which the delegation operates, including membership of the Committee, voting rights, frequency of meetings etc;
 - details of the arrangements for the local Pension Board.

The Governance Compliance Statement fulfils this requirement.

3. The Fund's Governance Compliance statement was last reviewed in September 2022. It is good practice to review it regularly and to update it if required.
4. The revised Governance Compliance Statement is enclosed at Appendix 1. The Committee is asked to consider this, and subject to any suggested modifications, to approve it for adoption. In view of the likelihood of new Regulations, no significant changes are proposed to the current Governance Compliance Statement at this time.
5. The document will be considered by the Pension Board on 12 July 2023, and the Board's comments will be reported to the Committee.
6. A further report will be brought to the Committee once new LGPS Regulations are published, together with any required changes to the Fund's governance arrangements.

Legal Implications

7. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
8. The Pension Fund Committee has the following powers and duties:
 - i. to exercise on behalf of the Council, all the powers and duties of the Council in relation to its functions as Administering Authority of the LB Harrow Pension Fund (the fund), save for those matters delegated to other Committees of the Council or to an Officer;
 - ii. the determination of applications under the Local Government Superannuation Regulations and the Teachers' Superannuation Regulations;
 - iii. to administer all matters concerning the Council's pension investments in accordance with the law and Council policy;

- iv. to establish a strategy for the disposition of the pension investment portfolio; and
- v. to appoint and determine the investment managers' delegation of powers of management of the fund.

Financial Implications

- 9. 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

- 10. There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report. The Pension Fund's Risk Register is reviewed regularly by both the Committee and by the Pension Board. The latest review is elsewhere on this agenda.

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: 11 July 2023

Statutory Officer: Sharon Clarke

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 11 July 2023

Chief Officer: Dawn Calvert
Signed on behalf of the Corporate Director
Date: 11 July 2023

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: No

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Bola Tobun – Treasury and Pensions Manager
Email: Bola.Tobun@harrow.gov.uk
Telephone 020 8420 9264

Background Papers:

LGPS Good Governance Review Phase 3 Report
https://www.lgpsboard.org/images/Other/Good_Governance_Final_Report_February_2021.pdf