



Local Pension Board

Date: 4th July 2019

Work Programme for 2019/20

Report of the Head of Legal Services

Purpose of Report

1. The report provides an update to the issues reviewed by the Local Pension Board in 2018/19 and also sets out a range of issues which the Local Pension Board may wish to include in its work programme for 2019/20.
2. The Local Pension Board is recommended to consider which issues should be covered in the forward plan and work programme for 2019/20.

Background

3. The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced the requirement to have a Local Pension Board to assist in the good governance of the Fund.
4. As part of this role the Local Pension Board is required to produce an annual report. The report for 2017/18 is included elsewhere on the agenda and this covers all of the issues reviewed by the local Pension Board last year. A copy of this report will be presented to Pensions Committee in September 2018.
5. This report sets out a range of issues which the Local Pension Board may wish to include as priorities for consideration as part of the forward plan and work programme in 2019/20.

Issues Covered in 2018/19

6. At the meeting of the Local Pension Board on 5th July 2018, the following issues were identified for inclusion in the work programme for 2018/19.
 - Pooling
 - Pensions Processing and Breaches of the Law
 - Moving towards an e-system
 - Issues of non-compliance by scheme employers
 - Review of risks
 - Scrutiny of the Accounts
 - Code of Practice 14
 - Data Quality
 - Business Continuity
 - GMP Reconciliation

7. In addition, Pensions Committee, in agreement with the Local Pension Board, has delegated some of its current work to the Board. In particular the following;
 - Risk management and internal audit
 - Monitoring of Scheme Employer Issues
 - Pensions Processing
 - Performance Monitoring
8. In reality, the Local Pension Board was already receiving reports that covered many of these areas.
9. In addition the Local Pension Board also receives a report at each quarterly meeting on Training. This is supplemented by two off site training events each year.

Potential Issues for 2019/20

10. As the Local Pension Board moves into a new year it is considered appropriate to once again consider the work programme for the year and potential priorities.
11. All of the issues considered relevant in 2018/19 as set out in paragraph 6 above, may also be considered relevant in 2019/20.
12. 2019/20 is a valuation year and this will take up a considerable amount of time for the Committee. The Board will also have a role to play in this process and will receive update reports throughout the year.
13. The Chair of the Board has also indicated the following areas should also be given consideration.
 - A report on the experience of pension scheme members and employers in interactions with Fund
 - A report on the Vision/Values/Ethos and Behaviours of the Fund
14. In addition, the Local Pension Board will continue to receive reports on training and any matters that emerge through the year.
15. The Local Pension Board will still continue to have access to the reports presented to Pensions Committee on this matter.

16. The Boards view on the proposed work areas noted above is requested along with any ideas or any other suggestions that the Local Pension Board members may wish to add.
17. There are a number of areas identified above for the Board to potentially consider. Whilst it is important to ensure that the work programme is full and robust, it is equally important that the work is focussed on key areas where a difference can be made. To this end it may be that not all of these issues are considered as part of the work programme for this year.

Recommendation

18. The Local Pension Board is recommended to consider which issues should be covered in the forward plan and work programme for 2019/20.

Reason for Recommendation

19. To ensure that the Local Pension Board is able to fulfil the remit of assisting in the good governance and administration of the Fund.

Work Programme for 2019/20

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location
Public Service Pensions Act 2013 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/25/contents	N/a	Head of Pensions Office, South Shields Town Hall
Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations	N/a	Head of Pensions Office, South Shields Town Hall