

Local Pension Board

MINUTES of the Local Pension Board meeting held on 26 February 2020 at 10.00 am at 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH (Room 117)

PRESENT:

- Mike Ellsmore – Independent Chair
- Dominic Cain – Employer Representative
- Diana Lupulesc – Employee Representative
- Susan Murray – Retired Employee Representative
- Mike Antoniou – Schools Employer Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

- Jo Anson – Head of Financial and Information Governance
- Alex Moylan – Senior Finance Manager
- Caroline Watson – Divisional Accountant

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Neil Tasker, Tony O'Brien, Barry Berkengoff and Allan Wells

2. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN A CLOSED MEETING

It was confirmed that no agenda items would be conducted in a closed meeting.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Dominic Cain and Mike Antoniou declared interests in the actuarial valuation agenda item, specifically in terms of contribution rates.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the local pension board meeting held on 9 October 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Referring to page 3, Jo Anson provided an update on recruitment and confirmed that the pensions trainer has started; the senior pensions role has been advertised; and that the contact centre work went live in December.

Members were reminded about completing the training needs assessment.

5. Barnett Waddingham – Review of compliance with Code of Practice 14

Annemarie Allen and David Crampton presented their report on the Code of Practice 14 review they had conducted on the Southwark Fund.

It was noted that Southwark is complying in percentage terms with COP14 requirements as follows: 49% met; 41% partially met; and 10% not met. With regards to the not met and partially met requirements, it was agreed that an action plan will be put together which takes into account the different weightings attached to areas of the code.

Reference was made to conflicts of interest on page 19 of the report. No declaration of interest exercise has been carried out within the last year. A link has been sent by email to LPB members to complete declaration of interest forms.

The pension fund is currently using the council's conflicts of interest policy. The regulator expects the Fund to have its own policy. Annemarie Allen recommended a separate policy for the Fund. This will be approved by the strategic director of finance and governance on the advice of PAP.

Managing risks: the risk register doesn't have risk owners and there is reliance on the council's risk policy.

Recommendation: risk register should be reviewed by LPB quarterly.

Breaches of law: more detail required to fully comply.

Recommendation: report information to LPB regularly.

Action Points: LPB to monitor progress. An improvement plan will be agreed. An in depth review will be conducted once improvements are implemented.

It was recognised that resources need to be considered in delivering areas which aren't currently fully met. Progress will be tracked in the LPB's forward plan.

Mike Ellsmore requested that the improvement plan is tabled at PAP and that ownership should be with the strategic director of finance and governance as scheme manager. The improvement plan will be implemented over the medium term.

6. AON Hewitt - Actuarial Valuation 2019

Chris Archer and Chris Darby presented to the Board on the 2019 triennial actuarial valuation.

Mike Antoniou queried the decision to group academies at multi academy trust level. It was noted that this was a different approach to that taken by other funds and there should be consideration in future about where such decisions sit.

Mike Ellsmore confirmed that the Board is impressed with the results of the valuation. Consultation with academies and early notification of results to employers noted as an issue to be considered at future valuations.