

## **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

WILTSHIRE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE  
17 December 2019

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### **Review of the Fund Communications Strategy**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the updated Fund Communications Strategy to Committee for approval.

#### **Background**

2. Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013, each LGPS Fund in England and Wales is required to produce and implement a Fund Communication Strategy.
3. The Fund's last strategy was published in May 2015 and this proposed new strategy would replace the previous strategy.
4. The aim of the attached draft strategy is to set out how the Fund communicates with scheme employers, members and member representatives (as required).
5. It is a LGPS regulatory requirement to produce such a strategy and the Regulations also stipulate certain requirements concerning the contents of the strategy.

#### **Considerations for the Committee**

6. The following key changes have been made to this Strategy:
  - a). The Strategy now links to the new Business Plan and the Fund's overall objective and vision;
  - b). It states the Fund's intention to move to a digital approach to all communication and to attempt to remove paper-based communications wherever possible;
  - c). It discusses how *My Wiltshire Pension* will be used as a key communication tool for members;
  - d). It reflects the new approach to providing payslips to members; and
  - e). It outlines some changes in the approaches to certain communications such as newsletters which are currently posted to members.
7. Officers have self-assessed the compliance of this Strategy against Regulation 61 of the LGPS Regulations 2013 and deem this Strategy to be compliant.
8. The updated Strategy was taken to the Local Pension Board on 14 November 2019. The Board made four recommendations in respect of the Strategy:
  - a). When officers review the required resources, it should be made clear which resources were required for communication purposes;

b). To track the take up of the digital communications so that adequate monitoring can take place and continued communication with those not using digital platforms;

c). Information on digitalisation should be made available on all platforms to avoid issues and meet compliance; and

d). To note in the annual report that monitoring of digitalisation communications was taking place.

As all of these changes relate to monitor the effectiveness of the strategy, no changes have been made to the draft strategy (except for some minor correction to wording).

9. The planned implementation date is from 1 January 2020 and will be published on the WPF website and circulated to all Scheme employers.

### **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

10. There is no known environmental impact of this proposal.

### **Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment**

11. There are no direct financial implications involved with the implementation of this Strategy.

### **Legal Implications**

12. There are no material legal implications arising from the proposals.

### **Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact**

13. There are no known implications at this time.

### **Reasons for Proposals**

14. This is an important, regulatory strategy which the Fund must maintain.

### **Proposals**

15. The Committee is asked to approve the Communications Strategy.

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: NONE