

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

WILTSHIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

24 January 2019

Board achievements against core functions

Purpose of the Report

1. To review the achievements of the Board against its core functions, as set out in the Board's terms of reference (ToR), since the Board's creation in April 2015

Background

2. The terms of reference for Wiltshire Pension Fund's (WPF) statutory Local Pension Board (LPB) follow national standards contained in guidance issued by the national LGPS Scheme Advisory Board. The majority of LPBs in England and Wales have adopted the SAB guidance and standards
3. Items 85 through to 88 of the LPB's ToR sets out a range of core functions that the Board are required to undertake following its formation. The core functions documented & which are set out below are sub-divided into more specific definitions within the ToR.
 - a) To assist the Administering Authority in securing compliance with Regulations, any other legislation relating to governance & administration of the Scheme and the requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator (Item 85).
 - b) To ensure effective and efficient governance & administration of the Scheme (Item 86).
 - c) To make a request for information to the Committee with regard to any aspect of the Administering Authority's function (Item 87).
 - d) To make recommendations to the Committee which should be considered and a response made to the Board on the outcome of those recommendations (Item 88).
4. Appendix 1 presents the core functions of the LPB and the methods of performing its duties. The latter include reviewing WPF policies & processes, monitoring WPF performance, plus providing advice and making recommendations to the Administering Authority.

Based on the LPB's agenda, papers, minutes, and annual reports for the past 3 years, Appendix 1 presents an assessment of the Board's compliance with its terms of reference.

From this it can be seen that the LPB's compliance with its core functions and sub-tasks is good being in the region of 75%. In addition the LPB has also reviewed the funds compliance with GDPR, GMPs, and asset pooling.

The areas of non-compliance are in relation to some administrative topics (eg. reviewing individual employer performance/comms) and some investment topics (reviewing investments costs/performance). The former due to lack of individual employer data and the latter deferred until pre & post asset pooling savings data becomes available in the funds annual accounts.

Considerations for the Board

5. The Chair of the LPB and WPF officers will use the results of this assessment (and meetings with the S151 Officer and Chair of the Pensions Committee) to a) inform the future LPB work programme for 2019-2020 and b) as an input to the Wiltshire Council formal review of the LPBs terms of reference in 2020.
6. Members are asked to review the appendix & if required in conjunction with the ToR and provide additional comment on the Board's achievements against its core functions. Where it has been identified that a core function has not been entirely fulfilled consideration of any actions necessary should be taken bearing in mind the caveats identified in the background section above.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

7. Not applicable.

Financial Considerations & Risk Assessment

8. There are no financial considerations.

Legal Implications

9. There are no material legal implications from this report.

Safeguarding Considerations/Public Health Implications/Equalities Impact

10. There are no known implications at this time.

Reasons for Proposals

11. To enable the Board to study and comment on the review of its achievements against its core functions.

Proposals

12. The Board are asked to recommend what, if any actions should be taken in light of the review.

Andy Cunningham
Head of Pensions, Administration & Relations

Report Author: Howard Pearce, Chairman of the WPF LPB & Richard Bullen, Fund Governance & Performance Manager

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