

WILTSHIRE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

PART 1 MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2018 AT ROOM CR1, SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, EUCLID STREET, SN1 2JH.

Present:

Cllr Richard Britton, Bullen, Cunningham, Cllr Tony Deane (Chairman),
Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Christopher Newbury and Cllr Roy While (Vice-Chairman)

Also Present:

Stuart Dark, Mr Jim Edney, Mrs Diane Hall, Mike Pankiewicz, Howard Pearce and Barry Reed

69 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair outlined the purpose of the committee as being to manage payments and balance the assets and liabilities of Wiltshire Pension Fund. Regular reporting on performance trends across a set of key performance indicators was said to be necessary for the committee to meet this purpose. Cllr Gordon King lent his support to the Chairs request for quarterly reporting to enable management of performance over time in a transparent way.

Officers stated that current reporting against basic metrics was bi-annual and would be quarterly in future. Future input from the committee on the nature and presentation of key performance indicators was requested.

Resolution:

The reporting on basic metrics would be quarterly and the identification of key performance indicators would be developed by the committee.

70 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tom Rounds and Cllr Philip Whitehead.

71 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

72 **Minutes**

Resolved:

To confirm the Part 1 minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018.

73 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

74 **Minutes and Key Decisions of the Local Pensions Board**

The minutes from the Local Pension Board meeting held on 11 October 2018 were considered.

Resolved:

To note the minutes of the Local Pension Board meeting.

75 **Scheme, Legal, Regulatory and Fund Update**

Officers talked to a paper that identified emerging regulatory issues and used a red, amber, green schema of higher, medium, lower risk to show the risk associated with each issue. Issues of GMP Indexation, Cost Caps, Pensions Dashboard, Annual Report and Academies' Review were discussed in terms of metrics and costs.

Metrics designed to allow comparison of one fund to another were discussed in terms of definitions and standardisation, the pressures of ensuring positive presentation and the fundamental variability in the size of funds being compared. It was concluded that meaningful metrics need to be defined according to the specific purposes of Wiltshire Pension Fund.

Clarity about ongoing regulatory change and its corresponding impact on costs of were discussed in the wider context of the risk associated with non-compliance. It was concluded that where future cost-pressures could be identified, their impact was more germane to future valuation than to current administrative costs.

The Chair summarised the discussion as being about risk emerging from regulatory change and its likely cost, alongside complexity of data and its value in managing the fund.

Resolution:

The committee noted the report.

76 **Pension Fund Risk Register**

Officers talked to the fund's Risk Register that identified, described, quantified and allocated identified risk to a named Officer. The only item on the Register highlighted as being of higher (red) risk was the pooling of assets through Brunel Partnership. The Investment Manager would talk to this issue in detail under her update on Brunel Pension Partnership, Agenda Item 16.

Resolution:

The Committee noted the report.

77 **LPB Code of Conduct Policy**

The Chair outlined an enquiry made about the Members Interest form. The enquiry had recognised the legal obligations addressed by the form, but had queried the amount of information it placed in the public domain. Legal services had devised a two-part form that distinguished between information under Part 1 that was in the public domain and Part 2 that was restricted to the Administering Authority.

Resolved

To approve the updated Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy Guidelines for the Local Pension Board, including the attached form for registering Members interests.

78 **Review of other Funds' Committee arrangements:**

Jim Edney, Independent Pension Fund Advisor, gave a verbal update on desk-research into how pension boards and pension committees define their roles and work together. Despite overlap between boards and committees, there appears to be no established best practice in reducing duplication and optimising the relationship between the two meetings. Common areas that boards lead on were communications and the monitoring of fund administration, whilst some committees provided boards with regular 'assurance reports' that are designed to avoid duplication.

The Chair requested a meeting of Chairs and Officers in January 2019 to define the respective roles of the board and the committee and to discuss the working relationship between the two.

Resolution:

That a meeting be called to advance how board and committee clarify roles and working relationship.

79 **Training Review**

Officers described how the Training Review was informed by three surveys conducted by Hymans-Robertson giving insight into National Confidence, Knowledge and Effectiveness of committees and boards. This enabled the development of a training strategy for all committee members. At this stage, results were being shared as headline results that indicate the value of targeting training on; actuarial methods, procurement, investment, administration and governance.

The Chair thanked everyone for completing the surveys, expressed confidence in the exercise as giving a good representation of the committee's knowledge and skill and noted the committee's dependence on its various advisors.

Resolution:

To note the reports on Committee knowledge, understanding and effectiveness and that a training programme was to be developed in response to survey outcomes.

80 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee was to be held on 14 March 2019 10.30 am.

81 **Urgent Items**

There were no Urgent Items.

82 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved:

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Minute Numbers 83-88 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 & 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

83 **Review of key contract costs**

Resolution:

The frequency of future reports on key contracts and whether this report was best dealt with by board or committee would be decided at Wiltshire Pension Board meeting January 24 2019.

84 **Brunel Pension Partnership update**

Resolution:

The committee noted the update

85 **Investment Quarterly Progress Report**

Resolution:

The committee noted the report.

86 **Minutes and Key Decisions of the Investment Sub Committee**

Resolved:

To note the minutes and key decisions of the Investment Sub Committee.

87 **Minutes**

Resolution:

The committee approved the Part 2 (confidential) minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018.

88 **Investment Strategy, Employer Investment Strategies and Triennial Valuation training**

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.50 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Jim Brewster of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718242, e-mail jim.brewster@wiltshire.gov.uk

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