

## **Summary Comments for the Wiltshire Pension Committee from the Pension Board in relation to reports submitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 meeting of the Board.**

### **Headlines and Monitoring Report**

#### **Risk Register**

The Board supported the proposed recommendations to the Pension Committee in relation to the increase in the risk ratings for the Administration and Data Management risk sections.

The Board also supported the design of the risk register, subject to an accuracy check of the graphics shown at the front of the risk register.

#### **Administration Quarterly Report**

The Board continue to believe that improvements in administration performance, especially in relation to the key performance indicators, are required. In this context, the Board welcomed the assurance given that they would have sight of the improvement plan at their next meeting, after it had been considered by the Pension Committee in March 2023.

One of the reasons given for increasing the risk relating to Administration in the Risk Register was that performance against KPI's had worsened over the holiday period. However, the performance table provided to the Board meeting appeared to indicate a slightly improved position. Given the absence of the Administration manager this matter could not be resolved at the meeting, however following the meeting, the Chair's of the Wiltshire Pension Committee and Pension Board, in conjunction with officers, are proposing that a SWAP audit is commissioned to examine the accuracy of the performance data being submitted to the Committee and Board.

#### **Key Financial Controls Report**

The Board welcomed the update given, that the expectation was that the new methodology for the calculation of the corporate recharge to the Pension Fund for support services provided by Wiltshire Council would be operational for the 2023/24 recharge.

#### **Audit Update**

The Board noted the increase in the assurance level following the completion of the key controls audit in November 2022. Although much work is still to be done to adequately address all issues, the Board acknowledged that the issues were all known to officers, and the significant programme of work which has already been undertaken in 2022 to address the issues raised.

The Board welcomed the assurance that an actions log would be provided to their next meeting setting out the actions and time scales for addressing all issues. The Board believes that it is a priority for the Board and Committee to closely monitor progress in this area.

## **Members Training Strategy 2023-24 and Effectiveness Review 2022**

The Chair of the Board thanked Board Members for their participation in the two surveys issues by Hymans, achieving a 100% and 83% response rates respectively.

The fact that these response rates were higher than those achieved for the Committee was a slight concern for the Board, given the importance of these areas and the decision- making role of the Committee.

In relation to the National Knowledge Assessment, the Board's overall high scores for Administration, Governance and Roles and Legislation were positive given the scrutiny role of the Board.

Although the Board felt that in some cases it was difficult to tie back some of the key findings to the detailed evidence set out in the report, the Board endorsed the implementation of the new Members Training Strategy, and the training plan for the Board, with the inclusion of additional training on Pensions Administration.

With regard to the outcomes of the effectiveness review the Board felt that, particularly in relation to Board, many of the recommendations set out in the table in the report only related to one or two members. Due to this, the Board endorsed the recommendations but, given that many of them relate to areas where only a small number of members expressed a need for additional information and/or training, the Board requested that the issues are addressed in a proportional manner, including the signposting of relevant information already available on Share Point.

**Mark Spilsbury**

**Chair of the Wiltshire Local Pension Board**