

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

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| MEETING:   | <b>Council</b>                                    |  |
| MEETING DATE:  | <b>30 November 2023</b>                           |  |
|  |   |  |
| TITLE:   | <b>Avon Pension Fund Annual Report to Council</b> |  |
| WARD:  | All   |  |
| <b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>   |   |  |
| <b>List of attachments to this report:</b><br>Appendix 1 – The Avon Pension Fund Committee’s Annual Report to Council 2022/23<br>Appendix 1a – Committee’s progress against workplan<br>Appendix 2 – Local Pension Board – Annual Report 2022/23<br>Appendix 3 – Terms of Reference for Committee & Investment Panel |   |  |

### **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The Avon Pension Fund Committee discharges the responsibilities of the Council in its role as the administering authority of the Avon Pension Fund in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended).
- 1.2 The Committee reports annually to Council on the work it has undertaken in the previous twelve months and reference is also made in the report to the future work programme. This report is for the 12 months to 31 March 2023.
- 1.3 As background to this report members should be aware that Bath & North East Somerset Council has a dual interest in the Avon Pension Fund, firstly as administering authority and secondly as one of the employing bodies. This report focuses entirely on the Council’s role as administering authority.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Council is asked;**

- 2.1 To note the Committee’s Annual Report to Council
- 2.2 To note the Pension Board’s Annual Report

### **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Annual Report for 2022/23 is attached as Appendix 1/1a to this report. The document is primarily for the Council's purposes. However, it will be circulated to the employing bodies within the Fund to improve transparency about the Committee's activities and the decisions taken.
- 3.2 The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 required the Council to establish a local pension board to assist the administering authority with the effective and efficient management and administration of the scheme. The Avon Pension Fund's Pension Board has published its annual report for 2022/23 which is included in Appendix 2 for completeness.

### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is required to put in place arrangements for the effective discharge of its business

### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 The costs of administering the Avon Pension Fund are recharged to the employing bodies through the employer contribution rates which are set by the actuary every three years as part of the valuation.

### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

### **7 EQUALITIES**

- 7.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out using corporate guidelines and no significant issues have been identified.

### **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 The Fund is implementing a digital strategy across all its operations and communications with stakeholders to reduce its internal carbon footprint in line with the Council's Climate Strategy. The Fund acknowledges the financial risk to its assets from climate change and is addressing this through its strategic asset allocation to Paris Aligned Global Equities, Sustainable Equities and renewable energy opportunities. The strategy is monitored and reviewed by the Committee.

### **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 None

### **10 CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 The Pension Fund Committee delegated the drafting of the Annual Report to Council to Officers and the Chair (subject to informal consultation with Committee members prior to the Chair approving the report).

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| <b>Background papers</b> | <i>Pension Fund Committee papers</i>                    |

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