

TERMS OF REFERENCE (May 2014)

1 Avon Pension Fund Committee

Bath and North East Somerset Council, in its role as administering authority, has executive responsibility for the Avon Pension Fund. The Council delegates its responsibility for administering the Fund to the Avon Pension Fund Committee which is the formal decision making body for the Fund.

Function and Duties

To discharge the responsibilities of Bath and North East Somerset Council in its role as lead authority for the administration of the Avon Pension Fund. These include determination of all Fund specific policies concerning the administration of the Fund, investing of Fund monies and the management of the Fund's solvency level. In addition, the Committee is responsible for all financial and regulatory aspects of the Fund. At all times, the Committee must discharge its responsibility in the best interest of the Avon Pension Fund.

The key duties in discharging this role are:

1. Determining the investment strategy and strategic asset allocation.
2. Determining the pensions administration strategy.
3. Making arrangements for management of the Fund's investments in line with the strategic policy.
4. Monitoring the performance of investments, investment managers, scheme administration, and external advisors.
5. Approving and monitoring compliance of statutory statements and policies required under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.
6. Approving the Pension Fund's Statement of Accounts and annual report.
7. Commissioning actuarial valuations in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations.
8. Considering requests from organisations wishing to join the Fund as admitted bodies.
9. Making representations to government as appropriate concerning any proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Delegations

In discharging its role the Committee can delegate any of the above or implementation thereof to the Sub-Committee (referred to as the Investment Panel) or Officers. The current delegations are set out in Sections 2 & 3 below.

Membership of the Committee

Voting members (12)	5 elected members from B&NES (subject to the rules of political proportionality of the Council) 2 independent trustees 3 elected members nominated from the other West of England unitary councils 1 nominated from the education bodies 1 nominated by the trades unions
Non-voting members (4)	1 nominated from the Parish Councils Up to 3 nominated from different Trades Unions

The Council will nominate the Chair of the Committee.

Meetings

Meetings will be held at least quarterly. Meetings will be held in public, though the public may be excluded from individual items of business in accordance with the usual exemption procedures.

Quorum

The quorum of the Committee shall be 5 voting members, who shall include at least one Member who is not a Bath & North East Somerset Councillor.

Substitution

Named substitutes to the Committee are allowed.

2 Investment Panel

The role of the Avon Pension Fund Committee Investment Panel is to consider, in detail matters relating to the investment of the assets within the strategic investment framework and performance of investment managers in achieving the Fund's investment objectives.

The Investment Panel will:

1. Review strategic and emerging opportunities outside the strategic asset allocation and make recommendations to the Committee.
2. Review the Statement of Investment Principles and submit to Committee for approval.
3. Report regularly to Committee on the performance of investments and matters of strategic importance

and have delegated authority to:

4. Approve and monitor tactical positions within strategic allocation ranges.
5. Approve investments in emerging opportunities within strategic allocations.
6. Implement investment management arrangements in line with strategic policy, including the setting of mandate parameters and the appointment of managers.
7. Approve amendments to investment mandates within existing return and risk parameters.

8. Monitor investment managers' investment performance and make decision to terminate mandates on performance grounds.
9. Delegate specific decisions to Officers as appropriate.

Panel Membership

The Panel shall comprise a maximum of 6 voting Members of the Avon Pension Fund Committee, of which 3 shall be Bath and North East Somerset Councillors. The membership shall include the Chairman of the Committee and /or the Vice- Chair and 4 other Members (or 5 if the Chair or Vice-Chairperson is not a member of the Panel).

Note: The appointment of Bath and North East Somerset Councillors to the Panel is subject to the rules of political proportionality of the Council.

Members shall be appointed to the Panel for a term of one year.

The Council will nominate the Chair of the Panel.

Panel Meetings

Though called a "Panel", it is an ordinary sub-committee of the Committee. Accordingly, meetings must be held in public, though the public may be excluded from individual items of business in accordance with the usual exemption procedures.

The Panel shall meet at least quarterly ahead of the Committee meeting on dates agreed by Members of the Panel.

Panel Quorum

The quorum of the Panel shall comprise 3 Members, who shall include at least one Member who is not a Bath & North East Somerset Councillor.

Panel Substitution

Substitutes for the Panel must be members of Committee or their named Committee substitute.

Panel Minutes

Minutes of Panel meetings (whether or not approved by the Panel) shall appear as an item on the next agenda of the meeting of the Committee that follows a meeting of the Panel.

3 Officer Delegations

Officers are responsible for:

1. Day to day implementation and monitoring of the investment, administration, funding strategies and related policies.
2. The Section 151 Officer has authority to dismiss investment managers, advisors and 3rd party providers if urgent action is required (does not refer to performance failures but to their inability to fulfil their contractual obligations or a material failing of the company).
3. The Section 151 Officer has authority to suspend policy (in consultation with the Chairs of Committee and Panel) in times of extreme market volatility where protection of capital is paramount

4. Exercising the discretions specified in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations in connection with deciding entitlement to pension benefits or the award or distribution thereof.