

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	AVON PENSION FUND COMMITTEE	
MEETING DATE:	11 December 2015	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure [IDRP]	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Annex 1 Avon Pension Fund: Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure Annex 2 IDRPs Timeline		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The purpose of this item is to report to Committee the proposed procedure for dealing with disagreements under the Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS].
- 1.2 This revised procedure reflects the new LGPS regulations and takes into account guidance received from the Pensions Regulator as set out in its Code of Practice 14.
- 1.3 The procedure affects both the Avon Pension Fund as the administering authority and all scheme employers.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Approves the Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure as outlined in this report**

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The administrative and management costs incurred by Avon Pension Fund are recovered from the employing bodies through the employer's contribution rates
- 3.2 There are no specific financial implications.

4 Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure

Disagreements under the Regulations

- 4.1 Whenever a decision is made or in some cases not made, there are provisions for any disagreements that arise to be dealt with under Regulations 74 – 80 of the LGPS Regulations 2013.
- 4.2 The Pension Regulator has set out in its Code of Practice 14 the requirements of the legislation to have an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures [IDRP] to be followed.
- 4.3 Annex 1 incorporates the requirements of both the regulations and Code of Practice to set out how cases of disagreement are to be processed within the Avon Pension Fund.
- 4.4 Annex 2 sets out a timeline of the process and gives details of who within the administering authority will be responsible for decisions made at different stages of the process.
- 4.5 Employers have responsibilities within the IDRP and once the procedures are approved will need to be instructed on their role and how the relationship between decisions made and potential disagreements works and how disputes are to be managed.
- 4.6 A similar exercise will be required for Pension Administration staff.
- 4.7 The procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis as they are subject to changes in legislation. However a review will be carried out after one year to monitor how the IDRP is working in practice and guidance will be sought from the Pension Board.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 No specific issues to consider

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment is not necessary as the report is primarily for information only.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This report is primarily for information and therefore consultation is not necessary.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 8.1 The issues to consider are contained in the report.

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal & Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Alan South Technical and Compliance Manager (Tel: 01225 395283)
Background papers	<i>LGPS Regulations 2013 and The Pension Regulator: Code of Practice 14</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	