

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	<b>LOCAL PENSION BOARD</b>
MEETING DATE:	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016</b>
TITLE:	<b>Compliance with TPR COP 14 – Update Report</b>
WARD:	<b>ALL</b>
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:-</b>	
Appendix 1	TPR Compliance Update Review – October
Appendix 2	Internal Audit Brief – Pension Governance (COP 14)

### **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Board with the current position relation to the outstanding areas of compliance identified in the initial assessment in May 2016 relating to the high level assessment on compliance with the Pension regulator (tPR) Code of Practice No.14 undertaken by officers of Avon Pension Fund.
- 1.2 **For information the Internal Audit brief relating to a review of certain aspects of COP 14 is also attached for comment from the Board. This review follows on from the review carried out in 2015/16 of the initial aspects of the Code.**

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

#### **That the Pension Board**

- 2.1 Notes the outcome of the review of TPRs Code of Practice No 14 and latest position against best practice.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial costs from undertaking this review. Costs relating to the Internal Audit of the Pension Fund and Pension Board are contained within existing budgets.

### **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 TPR have assumed responsibility for the governance and administration of all public sector schemes. To assist schemes in understanding TPR's expectations they have issued a Code of Practice No. 14 that applies specifically to the governance and administration of public service pension schemes setting out the legal requirements in these specific matters.

4.2 It also provides practical guidance and sets out standards of conduct and practice expected of those who exercise functions in relation to those requirements. This guidance can be viewed on the following link:

<http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/codes/code-governance-administration-public-service-pension-schemes.aspx>

4.3 The practical examples in the Code are only guidance, although Funds must ensure the legal requirements are met.

## 5. REPORT

5.1 In July 2015 officers completed a Public Service Governance & Administration Survey issued by TPR. Results from this survey were published in December 2015 and set the direction of travel in the short term of ensuring all public sector schemes attain a basic level of compliance as well as looking at the effectiveness of processes in areas identified as being of greatest risk, including scheme record keeping, internal controls and high quality communications.

5.2 Officers carried out a further assessment of each area of the Code of Practice in terms of both the legal requirements and the practical guidance and this was reported to LPB at its meeting in May 2016.

5.3 The Appendix to this report covers items where further actions have been identified to mitigate any risks of non-compliance with the Code.

5.4 All public sector pension schemes should be assessing their compliance with TPR Code of Practice and this review provides an initial evaluation and actions identified to ensure the Fund achieves this.

## 6 EQUALITIES

6.1 An equalities impact assessment is not necessary.

## 7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Report has been subject to consultation with S151 Officer.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>Scheme data, Officers Analysis of TPR Code of Practice</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	