

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	LOCAL PENSION BOARD - AVON PENSION FUND	
MEETING DATE:	16th February 2017	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Training, Work Plan & Budget Update	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Appendix A – Outline Training Plan</p> <p>Appendix B – Outline Work Plan</p> <p>Appendix C – Outline Budget</p>		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to receive updates on Training and Work Plan issues from the Board and present the current outlines of the Training & Work Plans. Board Members are asked to consider the plans attached at Appendices A and B and present their own feedback at the meeting. In addition the proposed budget for the Board will also be presented for comment.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board

2.1 Notes the report and endorses the high level Training and Work Plans outlined in Appendices A and B and indicative budget at Appendix C.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are direct implications related to the Pension Board in connection with this report, however these are all currently within the planned budget for the operation of the Board.

4 REPORT

4.1 Training

4.2 In developing a training plan Board Members should reflect on their own statutory requirements as set out in previous reports. In summary Board Members should have a breadth of knowledge and understanding that is

sufficient to allow them to understand fully any professional advice the Board is given. They should also be able to challenge any information or advice they are given and understand how that information or advice impacts on any decision relating to the Board's duty to assist the Avon Pension Fund.

4.3 As agreed at previous Board meetings individual board members should retain their own training log to evidence how they are fulfilling their responsibilities and update these on a quarterly basis to aid future training needs analysis. We remain hopeful that training will be aligned with that of the Pension Fund Committee Members over the coming 12 months.

4.4 A high level training plan at Appendix A has been developed based on the self-assessment completed by Board members which needs regular review and update to reflect ongoing individual needs and is attached for consideration.

4.5 **Work Plan**

4.6 In developing a work plan the Board should reflect the need to maintain a balance between building the knowledge and understanding of Board Members along with delivery of the statutory obligations of the Board.

4.7 The views of the Board are vital in informing the nature, frequency and cyclical nature of items as well as the timing of certain time-critical issues for consideration such as Project Brunel.

4.8 An outline of the Work Plan is attached at Appendix B for consideration and will continue to be worked on and re-presented at each meeting as the year progresses using the comments and feedback of the Board, Officers and other stakeholders such as the Pension Fund Committee to inform its contents.

4.9 **Budget**

4.10 Bath & North East Somerset Council acting as the administering authority for the Avon Pension Fund is required to comply with the Public Sector Pension Act (2013) along with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment Governance) Regulations 2015.

4.11 In meeting these requirements Bath & North East Somerset approved terms of reference and necessary supporting arrangements at its meeting of its full Council on the 15th January 2015 and the Pension Board adopted these at its meeting in July 2015.

4.12 The LPB is now required to consider and comment on the budget attached at Appendix 1 to enable it to perform its duties as laid out in its terms of reference.

4.13 The budget is based on the first year of operation of the Board and may need some amendment as it moves forward in future years, however a four year position is being proposed. Key learning points are that officer support was much higher than anticipated in year 1 and additional allowance has been made for this to include any extra audit or external support costs in future years.

4.14 As with all elements of the public sector there is exceptional pressure to ensure value for money can be demonstrated and the Board should consider this in its deliberations and comments

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance and there are no significant or material risks to report.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and there are no significant issues to report.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Report and Issues have been subject to consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources.

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