

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	LOCAL PENSION BOARD - AVON PENSION FUND	
MEETING DATE:	21 September 2021	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Pension Board – Training and Work Plan Update	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A – Pension Board Workplan 2021/22 Appendix B – Pension Board Training Plan 2021/22		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to receive regular updates on Training and Work Plan issues from the Board and request high level training needs from Board Members.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board

2.1 Notes the report and recommends high level Training needs through 2021/22.

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 the Governance & Risk Advisor to aid future training needs analysis.

1.1 Appendix B contains the current training for the year to date. Following participation in the National Knowledge Assessment conducted by Hymans Robertson LLP a training plan has been put together based on the recommendations of the assessment, which covers the requirements of the CIPFA Knowledge & Skills Framework. The workshops will be held jointly with the APF Pension Committee.

4.4 Members are asked to consider any other training needs through the rest of 2021/22 to fit into the working cycle of the Board.

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 A 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.

5 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

5.1 The Avon Pension Fund Committee is the formal decision-making body for the Fund. As such it has responsibility to ensure adequate risk management processes are in place. It discharges this responsibility by ensuring the Fund has an appropriate investment strategy and investment management structure in place that is regularly monitored. In addition, it monitors the benefits administration, the risk register and compliance with relevant investment, finance and administration regulations.

6 **EQUALITIES**

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

7 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

7.1 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 Low Carbon Equities and renewable energy opportunities. The strategy is monitored and reviewed by the Committee.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Reports and its contents have been discussed with the Head of Business Finance & Pensions representing the Avon Pension Fund and Service Director – One West representing the administering authority.

Contact person	Carolyn Morgan – Governance & Risk Advisor – 01225 395240
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	