

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	LOCAL PENSION BOARD - AVON PENSION FUND	
MEETING DATE:	22 March 2022	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Pension Board – Training and Work Plan Update	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – Pension Board Workplan 2021/22 Appendix 2 – 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 workplan & training plan for 2022/23

2.2 Notes the dates for future meetings

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 Work Plan

- a) 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.
- b) 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.

- c) An outline of the Work Plan is attached at Appendix 1 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.

4.2 Modern Gov & Library

- a) All Pension Board members have been asked to access meeting papers via Modern Gov from January 2022 onwards.
- b) It is intended that some of the more routine monitoring reports will be available on the Modern Gov library and will not form part of the meeting reports pack.
- c) In order to ensure all members have the correct access to Modern Gov and the library, The APF Communications Team, led by Jason Morel, have been contacting members to provide the relevant support & training required.

4.3 Future Meeting Dates

- a) Suggested meeting dates for 2022 are as follows:
 - 24th May at 10am
 - 13th September at 10am
 - 8th December at 10am
- b) Any suggestions from members regarding the style and format of meetings is welcomed.

4.4 Training

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) Appendix 2 contains the proposed training programme for the year ahead. The workshops will be held jointly with the APF Pension Committee.
- d) Members are asked to consider any other training needs through the rest of 2022/23 to fit into the working cycle of the Board.

4.5 Hyman's LGPS Online Learning Academy (LOLA)

- a) The SAB's Good Governance Review is expected to include additional knowledge and skills requirements for Committee, Pension Board and Officers.

Hymans Robertson have been working with the SAB to develop these requirements and have produced an LGPS Online Learning Academy (LOLA).

- b) The training is split into a number of modules covering the revamped CIPFA Knowledge & Skills Framework and TPR's Code of Practice 14. (The training will be updated to reflect the Single Code of Practice once published)
- c) Included in the modules are sessions on:
 - 1. Introduction to the LGPS
 - 2. LGPS Governance & Regulators
 - 3. Administration & Fund Management
 - 4. Funding & Actuarial Matters
 - 5. Investments
 - 6. Current Issues – McCloud, Goodwin and Cost Sharing
- d) In the last newsletter members were asked to complete the Introduction to the LGPS module in time for the February meeting.
- e) Members are asked to complete module 2, LGPS Governance & Regulators plus module 3, Administration & Fund Management, by the May meeting.
- f) The full timetable for completion of all modules is contained in Appendix 2.

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 Paris Aligned Global Equities, Sustainable Equities and renewable energy opportunities. The strategy is monitored and reviewed by the Committee.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Report and its contents have been discussed with the Service Director – Financial Control & Pensions representing the Avon Pension Fund and the Service Director – Commercial & Governance representing the administering authority.

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