

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	LOCAL PENSION BOARD - AVON PENSION FUND	
MEETING DATE:	6 September 2023	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	CIPFA Pensions Administration Benchmarking Club Report	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 – Results of CIPFA Pensions Administration Benchmarking Club 2022		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Pension Board the results of the annual CIPFA Pensions Administration Benchmarking Club for 2022.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board

- 2.1 Notes the report and the decision not to take part in the 2023 benchmarking exercise and instead look at alternative options.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct implications related to the Pension Board in connection with this report.

4 REPORT

- 4.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) aims to collect the transactional volumes and processing costs for administering the LGPS using the SF3 definitions. 'Employing authority work' and any work associated with the administration of non-LGPS pensions are excluded. Costs are further analysed by function.
- 4.2 Benchmarking is a vital tool that helps drive improvements and deliver value for money by measuring back office functions and comparing performance to similar organisations, therefore identifying where changes are needed and improve efficiency.
- 4.3 The Avon Pension Fund has taken part in the CIPFA Benchmarking exercise for approximately 15 years. Over the years the number of Funds taking part in the exercise has declined. In 2021 there were only twenty two and in 2022 participation had reduced to seventeen. The Fund has therefore decided not to

take part in 2023 and will instead look at alternative options and make use of the SF3 data which all Funds are required to submit to DLUHC.

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 Head of Pensions representing the Avon Pension Fund and the 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	