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## **RISK REGISTER UPDATE**

**Report by Director Finance & Corporate Governance**

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### **JOINT MEETING OF PENSION FUND COMMITTEE AND PENSION BOARD**

**17 March 2022**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report forms part of the risk review requirements of the pension Fund. It provides the Members of the Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board with an update of the progress of the actions taken by Management to mitigate the risks previously identified, a review of any new risks and highlights changes to any of the risks contained in the Risk Register.**
- 1.2 Identifying and managing risk is a corner stone of effective management and is required under the Council's Risk Management Policy and process guide and CIPFA's guidance "Delivering Governance in Local Government Framework 2007". It is further reflected and enhanced in the "Local Government Pension Scheme" published by CIPFA.
- 1.3 A virtual risk workshop was held on 23 April 2021 with Officers from relevant Departments to review and update the full risk register. The revised Risk Register was approved by the Joint Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board on 10 June 2021 and updates on the actions were presented on 16 September 2021 and 14 December 2021.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 details the risks within the approved risk register which have been identified management actions and the progress of these actions to date.
- 1.5 It should be noted that international tensions caused by the conflict between Russian and Ukraine may have an effect on both UK inflation and the performance of global investment markets. The Fund is not directly invested in either Russian or Ukraine but due to the interconnected global nature of companies, the Fund may still be affected. Increasing inflation will have a direct effect on the Fund's liabilities. Officers are working with the Fund's managers to assess and monitor the effect on the Fund of the conflict in Ukraine, and should any material effects impacts on the Pension Fund be identified these will be captured in future iterations of the risk register along with any mitigating actions.
- 1.6 There were no new risks identified during the review.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Committee and Board:**

- (a) Note the management actions progress as contained in Appendix 1;**
- (b) Notes no new quantifiable risks have been identified since the last review; and**
- (c) Agrees to a full risk review being undertaken and presented to the Committee in June 2022.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Identifying and managing risk is a corner stone of effective management and is required under the CIPFA guidance "Delivering Governance in Local Government Framework 2007". It is further reflected and enhanced in the "Local Government Pension Scheme" published by CIPFA.
- 3.2 The Risk Register has been developed in line with the Council's approach to risk management as set out in the "Risk Management process guide" and assesses risks using a risk score based on likelihood and impact. It has been further refined to reflect best practice "Managing Risk in the Local Government Pension Scheme" published by CIPFA.
- 3.3 The Pension Fund's Business Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24, was approved on 10 June 2021, setting out the aims and objectives of the Pension Fund. These aims and objectives fully considered and recognised in the formation and approval of the Pension Funds risk register.
- 3.4 The Council's revised Risk Management process guide uses the following risk scoring:

Level of risk	Risk score
<b>RED</b>	High –Risk Score Range 15-25
<b>AMBER</b>	Medium – Risk Score Range 6 – 12
<b>GREEN</b>	Low – Risk Score Range 1 - 5

- 3.5 To comply with the Council's revised policy of risk management and best practice, a Risk Management reporting cycle was developed around the performance and business plan reporting of the Pension Fund. As a result the following cycle of reporting was adopted:
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|-------------|---|
| Quarterly   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quarterly Investment Performance Report;</li><li>Key risks, escalation of any risks that are perceived to have changed adversely and any new risks need to be considered by the Committee;</li><li>Update on progress of risk management action delivery.</li></ul>   |
| Bi-Annually | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mid-Year Progress report on Business Plan Actions;</li><li>Key risks, escalation of any risks that are perceived to have changed adversely and any new risks need to be considered by the Committee;</li><li>Update on progress of risk management action delivery.</li></ul>   |
| Annually    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Annual Governance Meeting with Annual Report and Policy/Strategy Performance Reports;</li><li>Annual reporting on progress with Business Plan and approval of updated Business Plan;</li><li>Annual reporting on progress with Risk Management Actions and approval of fully reviewed Risk Register including consideration of any new risks.</li></ul> |

## **4 RISK REGISTER UPDATE**

- 4.1 A full risk workshop was undertaken on 23 April 2021 by Officers from the Pension and Investment Team, Human Resources Shared Services and Internal Audit & Risk in order to ensure that the risk register's contents were still relevant and up-to-date. The updated full risk register was approved by the Pension Fund Committee on 10 June 2021 and updates on the actions were presented on 16 September 2021 and 14 December 2021.
- 4.2 The progress of the individual management actions identified in the current risk register is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Political international tensions caused by the escalating conflict between Russian and Ukraine may have an effect on both inflation and markets. The Fund is not directly invested in either Russian or Ukraine but due to the global nature of companies the Fund may still be effected. Increasing inflation will have a direct effect on the Funds liabilities. Officers are working with fund managers to assess and monitor the effect on the Fund.
- 4.4 There were no new risks identified during the review.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

The purpose of providing the update to the Committee and Board is to improve the risk management framework for the Pension Fund and demonstrate that the Members of the Pension Fund Committee and the Pension Board understand the risks faced and how it is proposed to manage, mitigate or tolerate these risks. The Additional Proposed Actions as contained in Appendix 1, and recommended for approval by the Committee and Board in this report, are designed to directly enhance the management of risks.

### **5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

There is no impact or relevance to Equality Duty or the Fairer Scotland Duty for this report. This is a routine good governance required under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Governance) (Scotland) Regulations 2014. Nevertheless, a light touch assessment has been conducted and this will be published on SBC's Equality and Diversity Pages of the website as in doing so, signifies that equality, diversity and socio-economic factors have duly been considered when preparing this report.

### **5.4 Sustainable Development Goals**

There are no direct impacts from this report on the sustainable development goals of the Council.

### **5.5 Climate Change**

There are no direct climate change impacts as a result of this report.

### **5.6 Rural Proofing**

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact on the rural area from the proposals contained in this report.

### **5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

### **5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

No changes to the Scheme of Administration of Scheme of Delegation are required as a result of this report.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

### **Approved by**

**David Robertson**  
**Director Finance & Corporate Governance**

**Signature .....**

### **Author(s)**

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### **Background Papers:**

**Previous Minute Reference:** Pension Fund Committee and Pension Board  
14December 2021

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. The Pension & Investment Team can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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