

INFORMATION UPDATE

Briefing Paper by Director of Finance and Procurement

JOINT MEETING OF PENSION FUND COMMITTEE AND PENSION FUND BOARD

22 September 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This briefing paper is to provide members of the Committee and the Board with an update on a number of areas which are being monitored and areas where work is progressing. Full reports on the individual areas will be tabled as decisions and actions are required.**

2 ANNUAL BENEFIT STATEMENTS

- 2.1 The Annual Benefit Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been produced and are now available for all active and deferred members within the Members Self Service portal. For Scottish Borders Council members announcements were made on the Intranet/Yammer and all outside bodies were asked to share a similar news story with their members, details were also published on the Fund website.

3 TRIENNIAL VALUATION

- 3.1 Fund Officers continue to work with the fund actuary, Hymans Robertson. Next steps are the contribution rate modelling for employers. Followed by a review of the Funding Strategy Statement.

A draft Funding Strategy Statement will be presented at the next Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board joint meeting for consideration prior to issuing to all fund employers. Along with a summary of results for all employers.

4 ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 The development of an action plan, outlining how feedback from the Single Code Governance report and outstanding/new actions for improving and maintaining UK Stewardship Code compliance can be taken forward, was agreed at the 22 June 2023 Joint Pension Committee and Board meeting. Arrangements to resource this work were quickly put in place, but were diverted, to prioritise the work required for the next Stewardship Code submission, due on 31 October 2023. Due to changing expectations from the Financial Reporting

Council, this involved more work than anticipated. Once the Stewardship Code draft report has been signed off by the Committee and finalised, work will recommence on producing the action plan. It is anticipated that this will be completed ahead of the December Joint Committee and Board meeting.

5 TASKFORCE ON CLIMATE RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES (TCFD)

- 5.1 Timing of required compliance with TCFD regulations are not yet confirmed for the LGPS. The consultation for England & Wales closed on 24 November last year but there has been a delay in analysing the responses. Given this delay it is unclear on when first reporting will be required. As there is currently no requirement for the Fund to submit a TCFD report, it is proposed that the Fund delay publishing its first TCFD report until next year. Delaying the publishing of the report would allow the Fund to focus on its other, time-sensitive workstreams. In the interim, the Fund has signed up as a supporter of the TCFD framework to demonstrate its commitment to building a more resilient financial system through climate-related disclosures.

6 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 LGC are hosting a seminar on 19th & 20th October at the Kimpton in Edinburgh. The agenda has been circulated and 4 members have noted an interest.
- 6.2 PLSA Annual conference on 17th to 19th October in Manchester. Information on this has been circulated to members.
- 6.3 Officers continue to monitor other training opportunities and these will be shared with the Committee and Boards as they become available.

7 FUTURE MEETINGS

- 7.1 The dates of future meetings are given below for information.

Joint Pension Fund Committee and Pension Fund Board

- Tuesday 12 December 2023

Pension Fund Investment Performance Sub Committee

- Monday 30 October 2023

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