

Pension Fund Committee

Meeting to be held on 30 September 2015

Electoral Division affected: None

Report of Decisions taken under the Urgent Business Procedure

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report sets out details of items that have been dealt with by the Director, Lancashire County Pension Fund, under the procedure for dealing with matters of Urgent Business.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the report.

Background and Advice

(i) National Association of Pension Funds Defined Benefit Council

This decision was taken on 28 July 2015.

Lancashire County Pension Fund (LCPF) is a member of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF). As part of the organisation's governance arrangements there are two "councils" which represent the various interests within the defined benefit and defined contribution parts of the industry.

Elections to these councils were due to take place and for the Defined Benefit Council there was a desire on the part of the NAPF to increase the representation of LGPS funds. Given the technical work that the Councils are engaged in, this is something that officers would undertake. Candidates needed to be nominated by at least two Funds and the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) approached the LCPF to ask if the LCPF would be prepared to support and nominate the Chief Executive of the LPFA.

Given the prominence the LCPF/LPFA partnership arrangement has developed, this appeared a sensible proposal and as the Chief Executive of the LPFA is already involved in a number of aspects of the work of NAPF she seemed likely to be able to garner some wider support. There was some reciprocation in that LPFA put forward the Director of the LCPF for the NAPF's Local Government Working Group which is

an appointed technical body, and which would serve to increase the Lancashire profile at the same time.

Due to the timescales for nominations to be received, which was by 31 July 2015, it was not possible to wait for the next meeting of the Pension Fund Committee on 30 September.

(ii) National Association of Pension Funds Defined Benefit Council - Casting of Votes

This decision was taken on 21 August 2015. In the absence of the Director, Lancashire County Pension Fund, the decision was taken by the Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services.

Following on from the decision, set out at (i) above, LCPF was required to determine how to cast its up to six votes. Following the withdrawal of a fourth LGPS candidate, it was proposed that three votes were cast, one each for the following candidates:

Nick Greenwood - Head of the Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund
Susan Martin - Chief Executive of the LPFA
Fiona Miller - Head of the Cumbria Pension Fund

These were the only candidates from Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds and therefore in supporting them the Fund was looking to maximise the chances of there being an LGPS voice within this forum.

Due to the timescales for votes to be cast, which was by 11 September 2015, it was not possible to wait for the next meeting of the Pension Fund Committee on 30 September.

(iii) Criteria for Assessing Proposals for Pooling LGPS Assets

This decision is due to be taken on 25 September 2015.

The Government had informally asked funds for their views on the criteria that might be used to assess proposals for the pooling of LGPS assets following the announcement made in the Chancellor's summer budget. The criteria developed by officials following this exercise would be used to assess the "ambition" of individual funds proposals during the early part of 2016 in order to determine whether the back stop legislation proposed by the Government needed to be used.

Working with LPFA Officers and the London Boroughs' Collective Investment Vehicle officers produced a response to the Government which, subject to consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, will be submitted prior to the deadline for responses of 28 September. A copy of the response will be tabled at the meeting.

Consultations

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Pension Fund Committee were consulted and, in all instances, supported the proposed actions.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
N/A		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		