

Lancashire Local Pension Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 18 January 2022

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Lancashire County Pension Fund Compliance with the Requirements of the Pension Regulator

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

The Pension Regulator published its Code of Practice No. 14 in April 2015 for public service pension schemes. It provides practical guidance in relation to the exercise of functions under relevant pension legislation and sets out the standards of conduct and practice expected from those who exercise this function.

A compliance statement for the Lancashire County Pension Fund was last presented to the Local Pension Board in January 2021. Since then the statement has been reviewed and updated (see Appendix 'A') and indicates that the Lancashire County Pension Fund is compliant with the requirements of the Code of Practice No. 14.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to consider and comment on the revised compliance statement attached at Appendix 'A'

Background and Advice

The Pension Regulator's Code of Practice 14 provides practical guidance in relation to the exercise of functions under relevant pension legislation and sets out the standards of conduct and practice expected from those who exercise this function.

The Code of Practice 14 covers the following 4 main sections with the associated sub-sections:

1. Governing your scheme:
 - a. Knowledge and understanding required by pension board members;
 - b. Conflicts of interest and representation;
 - c. Publishing information about schemes.

2. Managing risks:
 - a. Internal Controls;
3. Administration:
 - a. Scheme record-keeping;
 - b. Maintaining contributions;
 - c. Providing information to members;
4. Resolving issues:
 - a. Internal dispute resolution;
 - b. Reporting breaches of the law.

Overall compliance against the Code of Practice 14 is very good, as summarised in the compliance statement (see Appendix 'A'). There have been small but steady improvements in many of the specific areas covered by the code of practice, as compared to last year's compliance statement. None of the specific improvements warrant special mention in themselves, however, are indicative of an overall improving picture.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Pensions Regulator is developing a new revised Single Code of Practice. The timescale for the implementation of the new code has been delayed and is currently scheduled for the summer of 2022.

Consultations

Those consulted included the Local Pensions Partnership Administration (Administration, Communications and Risk, Audit & Compliance teams), LCC Finance team and Pension Fund Technical Team.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk management implications

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		