



Local Pension Board

Date: 5th July 2018

Work Programme for 2018/19

Report of the Head of Legal Services

Purpose of Report

1. The report sets out a range of issues which the Local Pension Board may wish to include in its work programme for 2018/19.
2. The Local Pension Board is recommended to consider which issues should be covered in the forward plan and work programme for 2018/19.

Background

3. The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 introduced the requirement to have a Local Pensions Board to assist in the good governance of the Fund.
4. As part of this role the Local Pension Board is required to produce an annual report. The report for 2017/18 is included elsewhere on the agenda and this covers all of the issues reviewed by the local Pension Board last year. A copy of this report will be presented to Pensions Committee in September 2018.
5. This report sets out a range of issues which the Local Pension Board may wish to include as priorities for consideration as part of the forward plan and work programme in 2018/19.

Issues Covered in 2017/18

6. The following key issues were considered in 2017/18.
 - Issues of non-compliance by employers
 - Moving Pensions towards an e-system
 - Review of Risks
 - Continuing scrutiny and transparency of the accounts
7. In addition, at the Board meeting in December the Board also decided to look at changing some of the governance arrangements of the Board.
8. A range of other standing reports and/or follow on issues from the previous year have also been included on the agenda for Board meetings. These include
 - Training
 - Pooling
 - Shared Services
 - Pensions Processing and Breaches of the Law

Potential Issues for 2018/19

9. As the Local Pension Board moves into a new year with some new members it is considered appropriate to once again consider the work programme for the year and potential priorities.
10. A range of suggested issues are covered below

Existing issues which could continue to be considered

- Pooling
- Pensions Processing and Breaches of the Law
- Moving towards an e-system
- Issues of non-compliance by scheme employers
- Review of risks
- Scrutiny of the Accounts

New issues to be considered

- Compliance against Code of Practice 14. A report on this subject is included elsewhere on the agenda. It is proposed that this could become an annual item for the Local Board.
 - Data Quality. This is an area which the Pensions Regulator has indicated he will be focussing on this year.
 - Business continuity and disaster recovery. This was identified by the Local Pension Board at its meeting in March and an audit report on this matter is currently being progressed.
 - GMP Reconciliation. The deadline for the reconciliation is in late 2018.
11. In addition the Local Pension Board will continue to receive reports on training and any matters that emerge through the year.
 12. The only topic that has been covered in previous years which has not been proposed for continued consideration is Shared Services. Whilst this is included on the agenda for this meeting it is proposed that this is now removed from the work programme. The Local Pension Board will

still have access to the reports presented to Pensions Committee on this matter.

13. The Boards view on the proposed work areas noted above is requested along with any ideas or any other suggestions that the Local Pension Board members may wish to add.
14. There are a number of areas identified above for the Board to potentially consider. Whilst it is important to ensure that the work programme is full and robust, it is equally important that the work is focussed on key areas where a difference can be made. To this end it may be that not all of these issues are considered as part of the work programme for this year.

Recommendation

15. The Local Pension Board is recommended to consider which issues should be covered in the forward plan and work programme for 2018/19.

Reason for Recommendation

16. To ensure that the Local Pension Board is able to fulfil the remit of assisting in the good governance of the Fund.

Work Programme for 2018/19

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location
Public Service Pensions Act 2013 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/25/contents	N/a	Head of Pensions Office, South Shields Town Hall
Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations	N/a	Head of Pensions Office, South Shields Town Hall