

	<p>Pension Fund Committee</p> <p>27 July 2020</p>
Title	Re-procurement of Actuarial Services to the Barnet Pension Fund
Report of	Director of Finance
Wards	N/A
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – DPR Procurement of actuarial services to the Barnet Pension Fund
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Summary	
<p>The contract for the supply of actuarial services to the Barnet Pension Fund expires on 31 December 2020. This paper sets out the plans for the re-procurement of the service.</p>	
Recommendations	
<p>The Committee is asked to note the arrangements for the re-procurement of actuarial services.</p>	

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The contract to provide actuarial services to the Barnet Pension Fund (currently with Hymans Robertson) expires on 31 December 2020. There is no option to extend the current contract and therefore it is necessary to re-procure the service.

1.2 In order to ensure continuity of service (and allow for a potentially protracted procurement process in light the ongoing COVID19 pandemic), officers have sought (and have been granted) a Chief Officer Delegation that waives the requirement in the Council's Contract Procedural Rules that state that a contract award of this value (approximately £870,000) be subject to either a relevant Theme Committee Decision (Policy and Resources Committee) or be pre-approved on the Procurement Forward Plan. A copy of the DPR is at Appendix A. This allows officers to proceed with the procurement process.

1.3 Officers have prepared a service specification and Invitation to Tender which will be issued on 28 July 2020, with a view to identifying a preferred bidder by 7 September.

1.4 The procurement exercise will be carried out as a further competition under the National LGPS Actuarial, Benefits and Governance Services Framework which is fully compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, and is widely used across LGPS administering authorities. Procuring under the Framework reduces procurement time and costs by using a local authority specific framework which has already been through a competitive, OJEU-compliant procurement process.

1.5 The evaluation process will include a scored presentation from bidders. Given the current Covid19 restrictions, these presentations will be delivered virtually – Committee members will be invited to observe. Bids will be evaluated by the pensions team (George Bruce, Mark Fox and Nigel Keogh) and a recommendation made to the Chief Officer (Anisa Darr), with the appointment to be formalised by the Committee.

1.6 Once the procurement is complete, the order form (which forms the contract between LBB and the successful bidder) will be subject to signing by the Chief Officer and sealing by Legal.

1.7 The re-procurement of investment advisory services to the fund (currently also provided by Hyman, and due to expire on 31 March 2021) will commence in the autumn, and will also make use of the National LGPS Frameworks.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 None.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The Committee supports the delivery of the Council's strategic objectives and priorities as expressed through the Corporate Plan, by assisting in maintaining the integrity of the pension Fund by monitoring the administration and compliance of the Fund.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The procurement exercise will be carried out using existing resources. The cost of using the National Framework is £2,000.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 place responsibility for the local administration of pensions and other benefits under these Regulations on the administering authority, which is the London Borough of Barnet.

5.4.2 The Council's Constitution – Article 7 – includes within it the responsibilities of the Pension Fund Committee. It is therefore considered appropriate for the Pension Fund Committee to receive this report.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 Risk management is central to the LGPS. LGPS pension funds are in themselves risk management tools, managing the risk that future employer income streams will be able to meet future pensions liabilities by creating a reserve from which future liabilities will be met. Good governance is essential to managing the risks of the pension fund.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, the Council is under an obligation to have due regard to 1) eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; 2) advancing

equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share it; and 3) fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and persons who do not share it. The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Council also has regard to the additional protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership even though this does not apply to parts 2) and 3) (above) of the public-sector equality duty.

5.6.2 The rules governing admission to and participation in the Pension Fund are in keeping with the public-sector equality duty. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public authorities in carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010. Good governance arrangements will benefit everyone who contributes to the fund.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 Where relevant, consultation and engagement is discussed in the paper.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.