



Local Pension Board

1 March 2023

Title	Decisions made by the Pension Fund Committee
Report of	Executive Director of Strategy and Resources (S151 officer)
Wards	n/a
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Mark Fox, Pensions Manager – 0208 359 3341

Summary

Part of the role of the Local Pension Board is to ensure the effective governance of the Pension Fund. This role is not clearly defined but is deemed to include considering whether the decision-making processes of the Pension Fund Committee are reasonable or appropriate i.e., soundly based, consider relevant information, are consistent with the objectives and policies of the Fund and are taken after considering appropriate advice.

This paper considers recent decisions by the Pension Fund Committee and summarises the rationale, the processes followed and the link with policy documents and regulations.

Officer Recommendations

That the Local Pension Board notes the procedures applied by the Pension Fund Committee when reaching decisions at recent meetings and considers any issues associated with those procedures and decisions.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Board's role is to assist the administering authority in securing compliance with scheme regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the scheme and in ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS for the LBB Pension Fund.
- 1.2 Part of the Board's role is to review the decision-making processes and ensure that these are soundly based, meet regulatory requirements and consider advice received as appropriate. While it is not appropriate for the Board to seek to replace its own judgments for those of the Pension Fund Committee, it is appropriate to review whether decisions have followed an appropriate process. Should the Board wish to make any comments or recommendations, these will be brought to the attention of the Pension Fund Committee.
- 1.3 Since the last Local Pension Board meeting there has been one meeting of the Pension Fund Committee where formal minutes have been approved:

Meeting 10 November 2022

A link to the agenda pack and formal Minutes for the 10 November 2022 meeting is shown below. **It is important that the Board reviews the and formal minutes from this meeting to allow proper scrutiny to be made.**

Agenda pack: <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=11054>

Minutes:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s76125/Minutes%20of%20Previous%20Meeting.pdf>

Meeting 31 January 2023

At the time of writing this report, the formal minutes and noted decisions from the 31 January 2023 Pension Fund Committee meeting have not been finalised and so will not be covered in this report.

However, a webcast from the meeting can be accessed from the link below:

Webcast: <https://aisapps.sonicfoundry.com/AuditeIScheduler/Player/Index/?id=62cabef4-bec6-4371-86ad-2db4b44c3ba6&presID=d1428620efff485c9f63ac721a112ba01d>

This is only be available for one year.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Local Pension Board may wish to review Pension Fund Committee decision making procedures as part of its role in assisting the administering authority on ensuring good governance.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 N/A. The paper does not propose options.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Recommendations from the Board will be communicated to the next Pension Fund Committee meeting.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Good management of the Pension Fund plays an essential and key role in providing assurance that the Pension Fund's financial risks are managed in an environment of sound stewardship and control. This is in line with the aims set out in the Council's Corporate Plan, to ensure that services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

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

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 There are no specific social value issues arising out of this report, however membership of the Pension Fund ensures the long-term financial health of contributing employees on retirement.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The LGPS Regulations 2013 place responsibility for the local administration of pensions and other benefits under these Regulations on the administering authority, which is LB Barnet. The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 requires the Council to establish a Pension Board, whose role is to assist the Council in securing compliance with legislation, regulation and best practice, including as set out in the Pension Regulator's Code of Practice.

- 5.4.2 This paper considers the governance arrangement of the LGPS pension scheme that form part of the remit of the Local Pension Board.

- 5.4.3 Under the terms of reference for the Local Pension Board, the role of the Board is to assist with:

- compliance with LGPS Government regulations.
- compliance with the requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator.
- such other matters as the LGPS regulations may specify ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration
- ensure the Pension Fund's strategy and policy documents are maintained in accordance with the LGPS Regulations.
- ensure the Pension Fund's internal Risk Register is reviewed at least annually.

- review the Pension Fund's performance in complying with the requirements of the LGPS Regulations

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.

5.5.2 Good governance is essential to ensuring that risks are identified and managed.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 There are no Equalities and Diversity issues arising from this report.

5.6.2 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 and monitoring of the Pension Fund's managers will benefit everyone who contributes to the fund.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 The paper is part of the process of co-ordinating the activities of the Pension Fund Committee and Local Pension Board.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 N/A.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

6.1 N/A

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Some papers were exempt. If you would like to review exempt papers, please contact Mark Fox who can supply copies.