



Local Pensions Board 1 March 2023

Title	Policies and Procedures Report
Report of	Executive Director of Strategy and Resources (S151 officer)
Wards	N/A
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A – Summary of the Policies and Procedures for the London Borough of Barnet Pension Fund
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Summary

This report provides the Local Pensions Board with an update on the policies and processes for the Barnet Pension Fund, along with the dates for review, which will be followed by review by the Board.

Officers Recommendations

The Local Pensions Board are requested to note the policies and processes and the dates for future review.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The role of the local Pension Board, as defined by sections 5(1) and (2) of the Public Services Pension Act 2013 and regulation 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Governance Regulations 2013, is to assist with:

- securing compliance with LGPS Government regulations and any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS
- securing compliance with the requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator.

This includes:

- ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS for the LBB Pension Fund.
- ensuring the Pension Fund's strategy and policy documents are in place and have been maintained in accordance with the LGPS Regulations.

These documents are:

- the communications policy statement.
- funding strategy statement.
- governance compliance statement.
- statement of investment principles.

1.2 Appendix A sets out the policies and processes that are currently in use by the Fund. Most of these policies are required by legislation.

1.3 The LBB Pensions Team have reviewed these documents and determined the frequency that these policies will be reviewed and the date of the next review.

1.4 Following a review of each policy by the LBB Pensions Team, the policies will be presented to the Board for review at the following meeting. Each updated policy will also be presented to the Pension Fund Committee for approval.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Not applicable

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Not applicable

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 By monitoring the policies and processes of the Barnet Pension Fund, good governance of the Pension Fund is maintained. This is because good governance ensures the smooth running of the Fund with the benefits will be equitably split between all employers, thus enabling funds to be directed to Council priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2020-2024.

The current corporate plan (Barnet Plan 2021-2025) was adopted in March 2021. Following the May 2022 elections, the council now has a new administration and a new corporate plan, consistent with the new administration's priorities which will be brought forward shortly.

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

- 5.2.1 There are no immediate financial implications from the report. However, it is important that performance is monitored to ensure that the Pension Fund is not liable to additional costs resulting from maladministration or poor service.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Membership of the Pension Fund ensures the long-term financial health of the contributing employees on retirement.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Council's Constitution – Article 7 – includes within it the responsibilities of the Local Pensions Board. This includes ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS for the LBB Pension Fund. It is therefore considered appropriate for the Local Pensions Board 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 Not required.

5.9 **Insight**

- 5.9.1 Not applicable

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 6.1 None

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None