

Decisions of the Pension Fund Committee

22 March 2023

Cllr Anne Hutton (Chair)

Cllr Andreas Ioannidis (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Zahra Beg
Cllr Simon Radford

Cllr Danny Rich
Cllr Mark Shooter

Cllr Michael Mire
Cllr Arjun Mittra

1. **MINUTES (Agenda Item 1):**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

2. **ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):**

The Pension Fund Committee noted the apologies for absence from Councillor Elliot Simberg.

3. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3):**

Councillor Andreas Ioannidis made a declaration, he noted that he was an employee of Middlesex University and so a member of the Middlesex Pension Scheme (which is a separate pension scheme not linked to the Barnet Pension Fund). Councillor Ioannidis took part in the consideration and determination of the item.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENTS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 4):**

None.

5. **REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 5):**

None.

6. **MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 6):**

None.

7. **VALUATION UPDATE (Agenda Item 7):**

The Pensions Manager presented the report and noted that it provided the Committee with the final Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) used to determine the approach adopted for the 31 March 2022 valuation and the setting of employer contribution rates. He noted that the report also highlights the approach used to set the contribution rates for the London Borough of Barnet and Middlesex University and updates the Committee on progress to identify the unexplained data item highlighted in the Actuary's valuation report.

Having considered the report, the Pension Fund Committee:

Resolved that:

The Pension Fund Committee approved the Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) for 2023 – 2026 and noted the Rates & Adjustments Certificate (included in the draft Valuation Report as Appendix B) and updates on the valuation and unexplained data item.

8. CESSATION OF RE (Agenda Item 8):

The Pensions Manager presented the report and noted that following the in-sourcing of services provided by RE (Regional Enterprise) Limited (“RE”) from 1 April 2023, the employment of circa 400 people will be TUPE’d back to the Council and RE’s admission within the Fund will be terminated. He also noted the paper set out the support that has been provided to individuals impacted and the commercial issues related to the termination of RE as an employer.

Having considered the report, the Pension Fund Committee:

Resolved that:

1. The Pensions fund Committee noted the arrangements made in respect of the transfer in of RE employees.
2. The Pensions Fund Committee agreed not to return any exit credit to RE (Regional Enterprise) Limited on termination.

9. EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE (Agenda Item 9):

The Finance Manager introduced the report and noted that the report updated the Pension Fund Committee on the 2020/21 audit, and on the plan for the 2021/22 audit.

Michael Asare Bediako from BDO also gave an update on the External Audit and the Committee asked when the audit for Barnet is likely to be completed. Mr Asare Bediako advised that the audit will be completed by the end of April with the exact dates being worked through and once this has been completed the 2022 plan will be brought to the Committee over the summer. BDO will make contact with the S151 officer once a date has been agreed.

Cllr Mire attended the meeting at 7pm

Having considered the report, the Pension Fund Committee:

Resolved that:

That the Pension Fund Committee noted the update on the 2020/21 audit, and the plan for the 2021/22 audit, and identified matters that the Committee wish to bring to the attention of the auditor.

10. PENSION FUND INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE (Agenda Item 10):

The Finance Manager presented the report which provided an update on investment valuations, transactions and performance to 28 February 2023 with an updated estimated valuation to 28 February 2023.

Having considered the report, the Pensions Fund Committee:

Resolved that:

That the Pension Fund Committee noted the investment activities and performance of the Pension Fund to 28 February 2023.

11. INVESTMENT STRATEGY (Agenda Item 11):

The Head of Pensions & Treasury presented the report which provided a summary of the investment transactions made in the first 2 months of 2023, and an overview of the planned investment transactions in 2023.

The Chair asked if the Committee could comment before the strategy is approved. Mr Spreckley hoped that this will come to the Pensions Fund Committee for comments.

Given recent activity in the Banking Sector, the Committee requested that Officers analyse the Fund's exposure to the Banking Sector. The Head of Pensions and Treasury clarified that whilst we could analyse the Fund's exposure to the Banking Sector, it would not be possible for Officers to take action unless the level of our exposure was deemed an "urgent situation" which needed addressing.

Having considered the report, the Pensions Fund Committee:

Resolved that:

The Pension Fund Committee noted the investment transactions that have occurred so far in 2023, and the further planned transactions for 2023.

12. LONDON CIV (Agenda Item 12):

The Head of Pensions & Treasury presented the report which highlighted that a successful London CIV would provide efficiencies and cost benefits to Barnet and the people of London with Barnet seeking to develop and strengthen its relationship with the London CIV.

Representatives from The London CIV gave a presentation to the Committee.

Cllr Mire left the meeting at 8.15pm

After thanking representatives from The London CIV, having considered the report the Pension Fund Committee:

Resolved that:

The Pension Fund Committee noted the contents of the report.

13. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING (Agenda Item 13):

The Pensions manager presented the report which summarised the actions that will be taken by the LBB Pensions Team to keep records of any training that the Committee.

Having considered the report the Pension Fund Committee:

Resolved that:

The Pension Fund Committee noted the contents of the report.

14. WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 14):

The Pension Fund Committee noted the work programme.

15. MOTION TO EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 15):

RESOLVED that the parties be excluded from the meeting, together with the press and public.

16. ITEM 7 - APPENDIX B - DRAFT VALUATION REPORT (INCLUDING THE RATES & ADJUSTMENT CERTIFICATE) (Agenda Item 16):

The Head of Pensions and Treasury introduced the appendix to the report.

Resolved:

- That the Exempt information be noted.

17. ITEM 13 APPENDIX C – REVIEW OF FUND MANAGERS (HYMANS ROBERTSON) FOR Q4, 2022 (EXEMPT) (Agenda Item 17):

Resolved:

- That the Exempt information be noted.

18. ANY ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES IS URGENT (Agenda Item 18):

None.

The meeting finished at 8.34 pm