

TEESSIDE PENSION FUND

Administered by Middlesbrough Council

AGENDA ITEM 9

TEESSIDE PENSION BOARD REPORT

1 FEBRUARY 2016

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER - PAUL SLOCOMBE

TEESSIDE PENSION BOARD – MEMBER TRAINING

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To follow up the training needs of the Members of the Teesside Pension Board and determine progress with completion of the Pension Regulator's self-assessment questionnaire.
- 1.2 To inform Members of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) publication, *Local Pension Boards: A Technical Knowledge and Skills Framework* (CIPFA Pension Board Framework).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members either adopts the CIPFA Pension Board Framework or develops an alternative bespoke training plan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications arising from this report are the cost of training events, either provided by internal staff resources (in time) or the cost of external providers.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 To comply with the Pension Regulator's Code of Practice 14, Members of the Teesside Pension Board are required to agree, and operate, a policy on acquiring and developing knowledge of the Local Government Pension Scheme and the policies and procedures undertaken by Middlesbrough Council, as Administering Authority, in the administration and funding of the Teesside Pension Fund. To date, Board Members have received an introduction to the LGPS and a self-assessment questionnaire for completion.

5. CIPFA PENSION BOARD FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 In July 2015, CIPFA published the CIPFA Pension Board Framework. This Framework covers eight areas of knowledge and skills identified as the core technical requirements for Board members:

- Pension legislation

- Public sector pensions governance
- Pensions administration
- Pension accounting and auditing standards
- Financial services procurement and relationship development
- Investment performance and risk management
- Financial markets and product knowledge
- Actuarial methods, standards and practice

5.2 The CIPFA Pension Board Framework also recommends compliance with statement 5 of the “statements to be adopted” in the CIPFA *Code of Practice on Public Sector Pension Finance Knowledge and Skills*. This requires LGPS funds to report annually in their pension scheme annual reports:

- How the knowledge and skills framework has been applied;
- What assessments of training needs has been undertaken; and
- What training has been delivered against the identified training needs.

5.3 The above requirements are aligned with the guidance of the Pension Regulator, whose Code of Practice No 14 states:

“Schemes should keep appropriate records of the learning activities of individual pension board members and the board as a whole. This will help pension board members to demonstrate steps they have taken to comply with legal requirements and how they have mitigated risks associated with knowledge gaps. A good external learning programme will maintain records of the learning activities of individuals on the programme or of group activities, if these have taken place.”

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