

PENSIONS COMMITTEE: 17 MAY 2021

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

AGENDA ITEM : 4

BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22

Reason for this Report

1. To present to the Committee the Fund's Business Plan for 2021/22.

Background

2. The day-to-day administration of the Pension Fund is carried out by the Pensions Section based in County Hall. The Section carries out a range of functions including maintaining member records held on the Altair system, providing information to Fund members, calculating and paying benefits to Fund members and giving advice to Fund employers.

Business Plan

3. A copy of the 2021/22 Business Plan is attached as Appendix 1. The Business Plan was presented to the 27 April 2021 meeting of the Local Pension Board for review. The purpose of the Business Plan is to set out the key action points for the administration of the Fund over the next financial year in the context of the Fund's goals and objectives over the longer term. The Plan also includes membership statistics for the current and previous three years.
4. The Plan outlines the key work priorities for the Fund over the next twelve months as well as the achievements over the last financial year.
5. The Plan includes a summary budget for 2021/22, where:

The Fund's sources of income are:

- the contributions from employers and employees
- investment returns in the form of income and capital growth

The Fund's expenditure comprises:

- payment of pension benefits
- investment management expenses

- administration and governance expenses

The budget assumes a “cashflow neutral” position in which contributions received match benefits paid and administration expenses.

Legal Implications

6. The recommendation does not appear to raise any specific legal implications however the general legal advice set out below should be considered.

General Legal Advice

Any decision must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council eg. standing orders and financial regulations; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its tax payers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances and comply with any equalities legislation.

The Council also has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties, Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. The Protected characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, sex, race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief – including lack of belief.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (“the Act”) places a ‘well-being duty’ on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales – a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible.

In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published well being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well being goals. The well being objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan 2021-24

The well-being duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with ‘sustainable development principle’. This principle requires the Council to act in a way, which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take

account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:

- Look to the long term
- Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems
- Deliver an integrates approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals
- Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions
- Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them

The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link below: <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

The Council has to be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards when making any policy decisions and consider the impact upon the Welsh language, the report and Equality Impact Assessment deals with all these obligations. The Council has to consider the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how this strategy may improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

8. That the Committee approve the Business Plan for 2021/22.

CHRISTOPHER LEE
CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Business Plan 2021-22