

PENSIONS COMMITTEE: 6 FEBRUARY 2023

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

AGENDA ITEM : 8

PENSION FUND RISK REGISTER

Reason for this Report

1. To review the current Risk Register for the Pension Fund.

Background

2. A Risk Register for the Pension Fund is maintained as part of the Corporate Risk Management process. The Register covers all aspects of management of the Fund including Investments, Funding, Governance and Administration.

Issues

3. The Risk Register is regularly reviewed by Fund officers and is also presented to the Local Pension Board for their review. The Risk Register was considered by the Pension Board at its meeting on 24 January 2023. A number of incremental changes were proposed to the Register presented to the Board at that meeting and these are listed below :-
 - P1 : addition of short term inflation provision in March 2022 Valuation
 - P2 : Consolidation of review of WPP investments into "Current Controls"
 - P3 : Reference to new WPP Sub-funds – Private Credit, Infrastructure and Sustainable Equity – enhancing the diversification of the Fund's Investments.
 - P5 : enhanced focus on in-house training
 - P10 : Amendments to FSS to include arrangements for Employers with a surplus
 - P13 – Discussions taking place with the two remaining Employers not yet live on i-connect.
 - P15 : Updated timeline following Officers contact with Mercer.
 - P19 : Update on McCloud activity
 - P20 : Update on Recruitment activity
 - P21 : reference to Sustainable Active Equity Fund and potential for the Fund to set a Net Zero target.

4. Following a discussion of the Risk Register at the 24 January no further changes were proposed for the Risk Register. The current Risk Register including the above amendments is attached as Appendix 1 with the standard Risk Matrix used for the Council's Corporate Risk Register attached as Appendix 2.

Legal Implications

5. The Pensions Committee terms of reference include, '*To discharge the following specific strategic functions with regards to the Fund, taking account of advice from the Corporate Director Resources and the Fund's professional advisers:...*
e) To provide independent assurance to members of the Fund of the adequacy of the risk management and associated control environment, responsible for the Fund's financial and non-financial performance.' To this end, this report, in effect, requests that the Committee considers the contents of the attached Risk Register for the Pension Fund, which is maintained as part of the Corporate Risk Management process

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 2022-25

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>

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Recommendations

7. That the Committee notes the contents of the Risk Register.

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CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Risk Register February 2023
Appendix 2 Risk Matrix