

Communication Strategy Statement

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The pension fund is required to maintain a significant number of policies and statements in accordance with the LGPS regulations. The Communications Strategy Statement has not been substantially revised for some time and as per the agreed workplan an updated draft is attached as Appendix A for Committee's consideration.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to formally adopt the Communication Strategy as attached at Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under section 61 of the LGPS Regulation 2013 the Fund must prepare and publish a communications strategy. The Somerset Council Pension Fund first put in place a Communications Policy/Strategy in 2009.
- 3.2 The draft as attached is a complete re-write of the Strategy rather than an update to the existing Strategy. In drafting the new draft Strategy officers have looked to bring it in line with current best practice and where referencing the role of Peninsula Pensions to ensure it matches the provisions made in the Devon Communications Strategy.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1 Committee will recall that they have already reviewed a draft of the revised Communication Strategy at their June 2024 meeting.
- 4.2 The Communication Strategy was also considered by the Pension Fund Board at their meeting in June. No amendments were suggested.

4.3 The employers of the fund were consulted by e-mail on 2 August 2024 with responses requested by 6 September 2024. At the time of writing (before this deadline) a very limited number of responses have been received and all the received responses were positive about the proposed Strategy.

5. Financial implications

5.1 The new strategy does envisage more communication than has been the case in the past and any costs associated with this would be met by the Fund. These additional costs are not expected to be significant.

6. Legal implications

6.1 As stated in the Background above it is a requirement of the LGPS regulations for the Fund to maintain a Communications Strategy Statement. The proposed Strategy Statement meets all of the requirements of the regulations.

7. Background papers

7.1 None

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.