

Pension Fund Committee

Agenda Item 8

Business plan update

Lead Officer: Jason Vaughan: Executive Director – Resources and Corporate Services
(Section 151 Officer)

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1. Summary

- 1.1 To update the Committee with progress on and amendments to the Committee's business plan as agreed. Also to update Committee on relevant developments to the LGPS in general.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 To note progress on the business plan and approve any amendments.
- 2.2 To consider any Government consultations and whether the Fund should enter a formal response.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Somerset Council Pension Fund (the Fund) is a statutory scheme with Somerset Council acting as the 'administering authority' in accordance with the relevant legislation. This means that the Council is responsible for taking all the executive decisions in respect of the Fund.
- 3.2 To meet its responsibilities in this respect the Council has delegated executive decision making powers for the Fund to the Pension Fund Committee. A business plan has been produced to help ensure that the Pension Fund Committee meet their responsibilities and consider all necessary issues. Under the Scheme of Delegation put in place by the Committee, day to day running of the fund has been largely delegated to officers.
- 3.3 Attached as appendix A is the business plan. Progress is shown in the final column followed by a colour coded key.

3.4 Attached as appendix B is a committee workplan, which indicates which items will come before each Committee meeting over the next 12 months. It should be noted all dates are provisional.

4. Progress since last report

4.1 Officers continue to monitor legal and regulatory developments in relation to McCloud, Goodwin, the 95k cap, LGPS and levelling up and other matters.

4.2 Nothing further has been released by the Government with respect to their consultation on “LGPS: Next Steps on Investment”. It is currently unclear as to whether the government will look to put new regulations or guidance in place before the General Election.

4.3 The Scheme Advisory Board and CIPFA have revised the statutory guidance for the contents of LGPS Fund Annual Reports. It is expected that the minister will approve the new guidance soon and it will be published in early April. It is expected Funds will comply on a best endeavours basis for the 2023-24 report and then fully in 2024-25.

4.4 Following the completion of the external audit work following the Council’s January audit committee meeting Grant Thornton formally issued their auditor opinions to the Pension Fund allowing the publication of the finalised 2022-23 annual report on 30th January 2024. Interim work for the 2023-24 audit has already begun.

4.5 Shortly a request will be circulated to Committee and Board members for availability for a first informal session leading towards a refresh of the Investment Strategy Statement planned for final sign off in March 2025.

5. Consultations undertaken

5.1 None

6. Financial implications

6.1 None

7. Background papers

7.1 None

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