

**PENSIONS COMMITTEE**  
**9 DECEMBER 2020****WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PENSION FUND**  
**TRAINING UPDATE**

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**Recommendation**

1. **The Chief Financial Officer recommends that:**
  - (a) **The feedback from the specific training event that has been undertaken since the last Committee Appendix 1 be noted; and**
  - (b) **The proposed training events plan for the next year up until April 2021 Appendix 2 be noted.**

**Reason for Recommendations**

2. To ensure that an appropriate approach to training is in place that ensures strong governance of the Fund.

**Purpose of Report**

3. This report addresses the training requirements of the Pensions Committee.

**Background**

4. The Committee agreed a Training Policy and Programme on the 17 March 2020 and a comprehensive training programme has been delivered on a quarterly basis since September 2018. In addition, a number of specific workshops on responsible investment have been delivered along with a number of conferences provided by LGPS Central where all members were invited to attend. This report highlights the training event that have been undertaken since the last Committee in October 2020

5. Just to recap the Committee has continued to adopt the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Public Sector Pensions Finance Knowledge and Skills and the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework for Elected Representatives and Non-Executives in the Public Sector as the basis of its Training Policy and Programme.

6. At the time of the time of this Committee it is still understood that CIPFA are working on an update to the existing Frameworks.

**Fund Documents and Training Material**

7. Just a reminder to Committee which was included in the June and October reports is that the Fund's website is continually updated to ensure that it holds documents that set out the Fund's policies and working practices in its publicly accessible area.

## **Pensions Regulator Training Toolkit**

8. The Pensions Regulator has provided an on-line training resource to assist those involved with the public-sector pension schemes. This is accessed via a “Trustee Toolkit” link on its website - [Link](#).

9. The Pensions Regulator also provides a free online learning programme called the Public Service toolkit, which anyone can register for - [Link](#). It provides a set of seven modules covering the key themes in the Code of Practice on governance and administration of public service schemes. The Regulator suggests that each module’s tutorial should take no more than 30 minutes to complete.

## **Training Programme and Plan for 2020/21**

10. Due to the continued impact of COVID-19 shorter but more regular training sessions may be included in the quarterly meetings. These can also be arranged, as required.

11. Members may arrange a meeting with the Fund’s Officers to discuss their individual training requirements, which may then be incorporated into Development Plans.

12. The proposed training areas up to March 2021 are attached at Appendix 2 and Committee is asked for its views on the content of the 2020/21 training and to suggest any other topics for future training. The plan is regularly reviewed, and training updates provided to each Pensions Committee

## **LGPC Central Pool – Members Training**

13. The Central Pool have aided the delivery of the existing training programme for members of the Pensions Committee and we will continue to use this approach and sharing of resources across the Pool partners and fit this in as part of the current training programme.

## **Training Events since the last Committee**

14. A training event on current issues (covering the £95k Exit cap, the McCloud Remedy, Employer contribution flexibilities) and paying pensions was provided on the 10 November 2020.

15. Formal feedback from these events are detailed in Appendix 1. The events were well received but unfortunately, we only had 5 out of 20 members attend the induction training.

## **Contact Points**

Specific Contact Points for this report

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## **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 – Feedback from training events
- Appendix 2 - Proposed Training Programme for 2020/21

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Financial Officer) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.