

PENSION BOARD

7 MARCH 2022

PENSION ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY including POLICY STATEMENT ON COMMUNICATIONS

Recommendation

- 1. The Chief Financial Officer recommends that the Board reviews the proposed changes to the existing April 2021 Worcestershire Pension Fund (WPF) Pension Administration Strategy (PAS) including the WPF Policy Statement on Communications.**

Background and update

2. The LGPS regulations do not require us to have a PAS, but, if we have a PAS as we have done since April 2019, they require us to keep it under review.
3. Our PAS sets out the LGPS roles and responsibilities of us and our employers.
4. Our existing PAS was introduced on 1 April 2021 following a consultation with our employers on the changes we proposed making to the PAS that was introduced on 1 April 2020.
5. On 21 December 2021 we issued our April 2021 PAS to our employer contacts marked up with our proposed changes for 2022 and asked our employers to provide us with their comments by close of play on 11 February.
6. We received no employer comments on the proposed changes, but, after we had issued the consultation, felt that we would also like to add the following wording to section 4 of our Policy Statement on Communications specifically committing us to provide information about our approach to responsible investment / ESG (environmental, social and governance) / climate change issues: '(including information about our approach to responsible investment / ESG / climate changes issues)'.
7. The key areas of proposed change are:
 - Adding a responsibility for us to maintain our signatory status to the UK Stewardship Code 2020.
 - Adding a responsibility for employers to familiarise themselves with investment pots and the arrangements for ceasing participation in the Fund.
 - Adding references to employers being required to notify us specifically about address changes to their responsibilities regarding notifying us about changes in member circumstances.
 - Adding a responsibility for employers to consider ill health liability insurance.

Supporting information

- Appendices 1 and 2 - April 2021 Worcestershire Pension Fund (WPF) Pension Administration Strategy (PAS) including the WPF Policy Statement on Communications marked up with proposed changes for 2022.

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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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.