

## **Pension Committee**

### **10 June 2015**

## **5. KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SELF-ASSESSMENT**

### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Chief Financial Officer recommends that:**
  - a) the Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Questionnaire set out as Appendix 1 to this report be noted;**
  - b) the Questionnaire in line with the 'Next Steps' timeline be completed by Members of the Committee; and**
  - c) the updated Knowledge and Skills Policy Statement be endorsed.**

### **Background Information**

2. CIPFA published its code of Practice on public sector pensions finance knowledge and skills in October 2011, and redrafted in July 2013. The Code of Practice has been devised in response to Lord Hutton's recommendation that every public sector pension scheme (and individual LGPS fund) should have a properly constituted, trained and competent "Pensions Board". The code also represents a key element in complying with the Myners Principle on Effective Decision making. This principle requires LGPS funds to ensure that: Decisions are taken by persons or organisations with the skills, knowledge, advice and necessary recourses to make them effectively and monitor their implementation, and those persons or organisations have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate and challenge the advice they receive, and manage conflicts of interest.

### **Knowledge and Skills Training Policy**

3. The Knowledge and Skills Policy Statement, endorsed by the Shadow Pension Committee on 3 April 2014, details the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework, which includes technical guidance for Elected Representatives on Pension Committees and non-executives in the public sector. The Framework covers six areas of knowledge identified as the core requirements:

- Pensions legislative and governance context
- Pension accounting and auditing standards
- Financial services procurement and relationship development

## **Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Questionnaire**

## **Next Steps**

## **Supporting Information**

## **Contact Points**

## **Background Papers**

- Investment performance and risk management
- Financial markets and products knowledge
- Actuarial methods, standards and practice.

4. The Knowledge and Skills Framework sets the skill set for those responsible for pension scheme financial management and decision-making under each of the above areas in relation to understanding and awareness of regulations, workings and risk.

5. The Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Questionnaire (Appendix 1) details the required skill set and enables members to self-assess their current knowledge and skills to identify areas which require additional training.

6. The questionnaire will be circulated by email and Officers and Members are asked to complete and return the document to the Principal Accountant – Pension Fund Investments and Reporting prior to 31 July 2015.

Appendix 1 - Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Appendix 2 - Knowledge and Skills Policy Statement

County Council Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this Report :

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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 the report.