



De Vere Carden Park, near Chester: 1 - 2 March 2012

## “Sharpening our knowledge and skills”

### Draft programme

#### Thursday 1 March

Session	Title		Presenters
9:15 – 9:50	Coffee and registration		
9:50	Chairman's welcome		Peter Scales
10:00 – 10:45 Plenary 1	<b>Practical economics</b> We appear to be in a time-warp of economic uncertainty and upheaval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we getting good advice from the economists?</li> <li>• Translating economic views into sound investment decisions.</li> <li>• How do you read the signals for your fund?</li> <li>• What practical steps can you take to protect your fund?</li> </ul>		<b>Karen Shackleton</b> Independent Investment Adviser <b>AllenbridgeEpic Investment Advisers</b>
10:45 – 11:30 Plenary 2	<b>Future of the LGPS – fundamental choices</b> Following consultation, we hear how the Scheme will evolve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair, affordable, sustainable?</li> <li>• Long term prospects for employers and employees</li> <li>• Are significant opt-outs a real threat?</li> <li>• Will Hutton's recommendations survive?</li> <li>• How will regulation support sustainability?</li> </ul>		<b>Terry Crossley</b> Deputy Director, Workforce Pay and Pensions <b>Communities and Local Government</b>
11:30 – 12:00	Refreshments		
12:00 – 12:55 Sponsor Workshops to be confirmed	A	B	C
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch		
14:15 – 15:00 Plenary 3	<b>Giving the best assurance at all times</b> Stakeholders are concerned, they need assurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building assurance into your governance arrangements</li> <li>• Designing an assurance and reporting framework</li> </ul>		<b>Brian Bailey</b> Director of Pensions <b>West Midlands Pension Fund</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing knowledge and skills requirements</li> <li>Legislation, regulation and guidance</li> </ul>		
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>15:30 – 16:25</b> <b>Sponsor Workshops to be confirmed</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>16:30 – 17:15</b> <b>Plenary 4</b>	<b>Facing up to real risks</b> We've heard much talk about taking risk off the table, risk budgets, information ratios, VaR, VIX, etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How should we be investing to match liability and inflation risk?</li> <li>Practical ways of focussing on real investment risks</li> <li>Are asset managers on the same risk planet?</li> <li>Do employer covenant risks pose a real threat?</li> </ul>		<b>Michael Crich</b> Corporate Director, Resources <b>Cornwall Pension Fund</b>
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Drinks reception</b>		
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Dinner</b>		

## Friday 2 March

<b>9:15- 9:45</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>9:45 – 10:30</b> <b>Plenary 5</b>	<b>Tackling new investment ideas</b> Opportunities arise to access improved returns, better matching, lower correlation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do we explore these opportunities with confidence?</li> <li>Does your committee have the right skills on tap?</li> <li>Are the higher costs and risks justified?</li> <li>Some examples of current thinking</li> </ul>		<b>Neil Newton</b> Former Chairman <b>LPFA</b>
<b>10:35 – 11:30</b> <b>Sponsor Workshops to be confirmed</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>		
<b>12:00 – 12:45</b> <b>Plenary 6</b>	<b>Collaboration, frameworks and beyond</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the current status of inter-fund collaboration?</li> <li>Can funds work together to reduce costs and improve efficiency?</li> <li>What are the benefits and pitfalls of joint working, procurement, and framework agreements?</li> <li>Where next? Will we see funds combining?</li> </ul>		<b>Howard Pearce</b> Head of Environmental Finance and Pension Fund Management <b>Environment Agency</b>

<b>12:45</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Peter Scales</b>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	

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