

Essex Pension Fund Board	EPB/32/11
date: 14 December 2011	

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Reform

Report by the Secretary to the Board

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the latest position with regard to reform of the Local Government Pension Scheme and to seek agreement to the process for finalising the Board's response to the consultation issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the latest position with regard to reform of the Local Government Pension Scheme be noted; and
- 2.2 That the process for finalising the Board's response to the DCLG consultation be agreed.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Pension Reform Task and Finish Group established at the last meeting of the Board held its first meeting on 17 November. Councillor N J Hume was elected Chairman. At the meeting, the Group received a presentation from Matt Mott, Communications Manager, Pensions Services, on the current short and long term proposals for changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme. The same presentation was also given at the Board's Annual Strategy Day on 21 November.

4. Further Developments

- 4.1 An update on any further developments will be provided at the meeting.

5. Consultation Response

- 5.1 The Fund's response to the current consultation must be with the DCLG by 6 January 2012. Information around the proposals and the LGPS community's reaction to it is still emerging. It is obviously in the Fund's interest that its response should be based on the best information and take into account the most up to date thinking. Therefore at this meeting the Board's agreement will be sought either to approve the draft response to the DCLG consultation or to a flexible process for finalising the response.

6. Link to Essex Pension Fund Objectives

- 6.1 Maintaining awareness of current issues with regard to LGPS reform will assist the Board in achieving the following Fund objectives:
- Ensure the Pension Fund is managed and its services delivered by people who have the appropriate knowledge and expertise
 - Act with integrity and be accountable to our stakeholders for our decisions, ensuring they are robust and well based
 - To ensure the Fund is properly managed

7. Risk Implications

- 7.1 Failure to maintain an awareness of current issues with regard to LGPS reform and respond to consultations would mean that the Fund's views were not taken into account when changes are proposed.

8. Communication Implications

- 8.1 None

9. Finance and Resources Implications

- 9.1 None

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 None