

Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board	PSB 03
Date: 20 March 2024	

Update on Pension Fund Activity: Quarterly Update Report

Report by the Head of Fund Compliance and Governance

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This Report is for noting

Executive Summary

Report Type: Governance

The Quarterly Update Report is provided at Appendix A.

Business Plan – of **57** priorities, **53** activities have been completed with **4** no longer applicable to be completed in 2023/24.

Budget – as at 07 March 2024 the Fund is forecasting a slight underspend of **1.9%**.

Scorecard – as at 31 December 2023, **one** movement has been recorded within the Exception Report relating to a Governance measure.

Risk – as at 28 February 2024, **no** movements have been recorded since the last Board meeting.

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide the Board with the latest Pension Fund Activity Report on:

- progress against the 2023/24 Business Plan;
- Budget;
- Scorecard as at 31 December 2023; and

- Risk Management.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board note the latest Pension Fund Activity Report.

3. Latest Position

- 3.1 The latest Pension Fund Activity Report at Appendix A outlines progress to date against the Fund's 2023/24 Business Plan and Budget, along with the Scorecard and Risk Register exception reports.

4. Key Developments to note

Business Plan

- 4.1 The Business Plan update can be found in Section A to this report. A summary of progress to date is shown in the table below:

Function	Total	Complete	In Progress	Not due to start	Not Applicable
Governance	17	15 (2)	0 (11)	0 (4)	2 (0)
Funding	8	8 (2)	0 (5)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Investments	18	17 (6)	0 (9)	0 (3)	1 (0)
Admin	7	7 (0)	0 (7)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Comms	7	6 (0)	0 (6)	0 (1)	1 (0)
Total	57	53 (10)	0 (38)	0 (9)	4 (0)

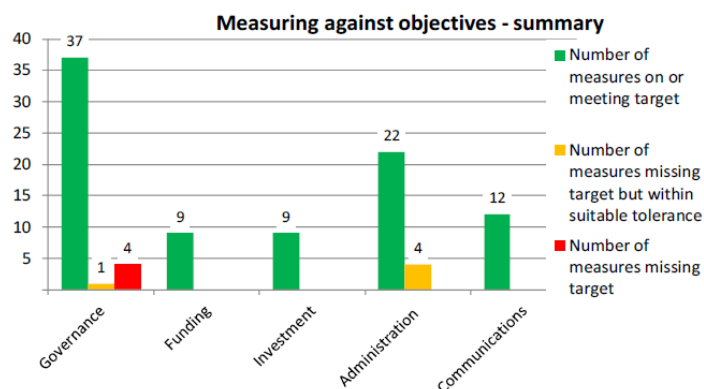
The numbers in brackets represent the progress reported at the 13 December 2023 meeting.

Budget

- 4.2 The 2023/24 Budget vs Forecast is shown in Section B to this report.

Scorecard

- 4.3 The Scorecard exception report has been provided at Section C to this report. A summary of the movements has been provided overleaf.



Scorecard Movements

- 4.4 One movement has been recorded within the Governance Section, from amber to red, in regard to the attendance at Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board (PSB) Meetings, falling from 70% to 60%.
- 4.5 The remaining three reds are in regard to external audit and the vacant positions held on both the PSB and Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board (PAB).
- 4.6 Positive movement has been made in regard to the 2020/21 Annual Report and Accounts with the accounts being signed off at the end of January 2024 and subsequently published on the Fund's website. However, the 2021/22 and 2022/23 external audits are still to be completed by BDO.

Risk Management

- 4.7 The Risk Register exception report has been detailed at Section D to this report. A summary of the movements has been provided below.

Risk Movements

- 4.8 No movements have been recorded since the last PSB meeting with eight risks not at their target score and no new risks added.

5. Link to Essex Pension Fund Objectives

- 5.1 Monitoring Pension Fund activity via the Business Plan, Risks and Scorecard assists the Fund in achieving all its objectives, and in particular to:

- provide a high-quality service whilst maintaining value for money;

- understand and monitor risk and compliance; and
- continually measure and monitor success against our objectives.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 Key risks are identified at Section D within the Risk Management section of the report.

7. Communication Implications

- 7.1 Other than ongoing reporting to the Board, there are no communication implications.

8. Finance and Resources Implications

- 8.1 To deliver the activities outlined in the Business Plan for 2023/24 a Budget of £6.48m has been approved which includes an operational internal budget of £4.02m and a budget allocation for third party provider support/advice of £2.46m. This will be periodically kept under review.

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Update on Pension Fund Activity, PSB 03, 13 December 2023.
- 9.2 Update on Pension Fund Activity, PSB 03, 20 September 2023.
- 9.3 Update on Pension Fund Activity, PSB 07, 05 July 2023.