

Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board	EPB/05/16
date: 16 March 2016	

Pension Advisory Board (PAB) Report

Report by the Director for Essex Pension Fund & Head of Essex Pension Fund
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1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide an update on PAB activity since the last Board meeting.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board should note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Essex Pension Fund Advisory Board (PAB) has been established as the Local Pension Board for Essex in accordance with section 5 of the Public Service Pension Act 2013 and Part 3 of the LGPS Regulations 2013.
- 3.2 The remit of the PAB includes assisting the Administering Authority as Scheme Manager:
- to secure compliance with the LGPS regulations and any other legislation relating to governance and administration of the LGPS
 - to secure compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pension Regulator.
- 3.3 A web link to the papers detailing the establishment of the PAB (including the full Terms of Reference) is included at the end of this report.
- 3.4 Since the Board's last meeting the PAB has met once on 15 January 2016.

4. Report of the meeting of ISC on 15 January 2016

- 4.1 The PAB received a presentation detailing the emerging situation around **pooling LPS investments** and a number of aspects of the Governments reform agenda were discussed in detail.
- 4.2 The PAB noted that the ACCESS pool had the potential to include both the Essex Pension Fund and the Norfolk Pension Fund. The Independent Chairman highlighted that at this time there were no formal links between the Norfolk Pension Fund and the Essex Pension Fund in relation to pools and it was further noted that a review of the PAB's arrangements was scheduled to commence by October 2016.
- 4.3 The PAB considered and adopted the **Knowledge & Skills Training Strategy**. This Strategy had previously also been adopted by the PSB in late 2015.
- 4.4 At its December meeting the PSB had invited the PAB to consider the Fund's Governance **Policy & Compliance Statement**. This was discussed in detail and a number of formatting suggestions were suggested for the Head of the Essex pension Fund to consider. It was noted that all members had now attended PSB and/ or ISC meetings as observers and had found this useful. At this stage the Board felt that it would be more useful for all members to continue to attend PSB and ISC meetings on an ad hoc basis rather than delegating specific representatives. However, officers would endeavour to ensure that at least one employer representative and one scheme member representative would attend each meeting wherever possible.
- 4.5 It was highlighted that the PAB was required to produce an annual report; however the DCLG had yet to publish guidance on its timing and content. The PAB's next meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2016, when it will finalise its consideration of the **Governance Policy & Compliance Statement** in light of any published guidance.

4.6 At its December meeting the PSB had invited the PAB to consider the Fund's **Communications Policy**. Members of the PAB welcomed the opportunity to review the document with which they were broadly comfortable. PAB Members did ask to be provided with some specific examples of Fund communications around specific practical matters at their next meeting. It was also agreed that generic communications information to employers would be sent to PAB employer representatives.

4.7 The PAB agreed to the following meeting dates which would be kept under review:

11 May 2016
21 September 2016
25 January 2017

5. Link to Essex Pension Fund Objectives

5.1 Compliance with the Fund's governance arrangements.

6. Background Papers

6.1 PAB agenda and minutes 15 January 2016.

6.2 Further background detail on the establishment of the PAB (including Terms of Reference) can be found within item 9 at the link below.
<http://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/essexcmis5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/3109/Committee/50/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>