

Essex Pension Fund Strategy Board	EPB/14/15
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Employer Forum 2015

Joint Report by the Director for the Essex Pension Fund & the Head of the Essex Pension Fund

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide feedback to the Board from the Essex Pension Fund Forum held on 23rd June 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The feedback is noted.

3. Annual Employer Forum - Background

- 3.1 At the 4th March Pension Board, Members agreed to the date of 23rd June for the 2015 Employer Forum.
- 3.2 For the first time the venue was the Council Chamber, at Chelmsford City Council.

4. Annual Employer Forum - Feedback

- 4.1 The event covered the following topics:
- Governance Arrangements
 - Investments
 - Actuarial Update, and
 - Pensions Freedoms and Flexibilities
- 4.2 The attendees at the event were both financial and administration professionals.
- 4.3 68 delegates attended the Forum representing 59 different Employers. The feedback forms were issued in hard copy at the event, in addition an invitation was also issued to return the forms electronically.
- 4.4 Fund Officers and presenters spoke with delegates after the formal session closed. Feedback – both verbal and on the 20 forms submitted – was broadly positive. Officers will review the detail and comments will be taken into account when planning subsequent events.

5 Link to the Essex Pension Fund Objective

- 5.1 Holding an Employers Forum facilitates effective communication between the Fund and its employers.
- Communicate in a friendly, expert and direct way to our stakeholders, treating all our stakeholders equally.
 - Ensure our communications are simple, relevant and have impact.
 - Deliver information in a way that suits all types of stakeholder.
 - Aim for full appreciation of the pension scheme benefits and changes to the scheme by all scheme members, prospective scheme members and employers.

6 Risk Implications

- 6.1 Not holding a Forum, or holding a Forum that was not effective would limit the Fund's ability to communicate with its employer stakeholders.

7 Communication Implications

7.1 The slides used at the Forum will be made available on the Fund's website.

8 Finance and Resource Implications

8.1 The cost of the venue hire of £1,500 was met by the Pension Fund