

Warwickshire Local Pension Board

26 April 2022

Regulatory and Policy Update

Recommendation(s)

The Local Pension Board notes and comments on the content of the report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the policies reviewed either as part of an annual review or where there have been minor amendments required.
- 1.2 The report also updates the Board on regulatory developments in the pensions arena.

2. Financial Implications

None.

3. Environmental Implications

None.

4. Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure

- 4.1 All pension schemes are required by the Pension Regulator to have a procedure to resolve pension disputes raised by scheme members. The process is a three stage approach with the first two stages comprising the Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure and the third stage involving referral to the Pension Ombudsman. In exceptional circumstances a scheme member can refer their complaint to the Court for resolution.
- 4.2 The procedure for the Local Government Pension Scheme, is set out in the LGPS Regulations 2013 and template documentation is provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for local authority funds to adapt for their use.
- 4.3 Officers have reviewed the procedure adopted by the Staff and Pensions Committee last March and consider it remains fit for purpose.

5. Regulatory Update.

Officers have previously agreed to keep the Board updated on progress in several areas. The updates for those are:

Cost Management Mechanism

- 5.1 The judicial review challenging the legality of the Government's decision to allocate the costs arising from McCloud as a cost to scheme members is ongoing. Officers will provide further information as the case develops.

Pensions Dashboard

- 5.2 The Pensions Dashboard is a government initiative that will enable the public to have online access to all their pension records whether they are held by private sector or public sector occupational pension schemes and personal pension schemes registered with the Pension Regulator.
- 5.3 It is understood that public service pension schemes are in scope.
- 5.4 Officers are currently waiting for further guidance from the Local Government Association who it is expected will respond to the consultation.
- 5.5 Board members should be reassured that local authority pension funds and their administration software providers have been aware of this initiative for several years and have been taking steps to ensure that member records are accurate.

The Pension Regulator Single Code of Practice

- 5.6 Officers understand that the Pension Regulator is still reviewing comments received following the consultation document issued in 2021. The Regulator has acknowledged that issues raised by the public service pension schemes and particularly the LGPS are causing further thought on some parts of the Code.
- 5.7 Although the Single Code is likely to be delayed until later in 2022, officers continue to review how the changes to the Code may impact the management of the Fund.

Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill

- 5.8 An amendment to the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill was passed on 22 February 2022.
- 5.9 The amendment allows the responsible authority (the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) to issue guidance to administering authorities instructing them not to make investment decisions that conflict with the UK's foreign and defence policy.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Neil Buxton, Victoria Moffett, Chris Norton	neilbuxton@warwickshire.gov.uk, victoriamoffett@warwickshire.gov.uk, chrisnorton@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Andrew Felton	andrewfelton@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Strategic Director for Resources	robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property	peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: n/a