

Warwickshire Local Pension Board

16 April 2024

Warwickshire Pension Fund Business Plan Report

Recommendations

That the Warwickshire Local Pension Board:

- 1) notes and comments on the progress made as at Quarter 4 on the 2023/24 Business Plan; and
- 2) notes and comments on the 2024/25 Warwickshire Pension Fund Business Plan, approved by the Staff and Pension Committee on 4 March 2024.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It is best practice for Local Government Pension Scheme pension funds to operate a formal and documented Business Plan for their operations. This report discusses the Warwickshire Pension Fund's Business Plan for 2023/24 (Appendix 1), as approved by the Staff and Pensions Committee in March 2024, and the progress made up to the fourth quarter.
- 1.2 The Business Plan sits alongside other key documents which govern the strategy and operations of the Warwickshire Pension Fund, including the Administration Strategy, Investment Strategy Statement and Funding Strategy Statement.
- 1.3 This Report also contains the Warwickshire Pension Fund Business Plan for 2024/25 as approved by the Staff and Pension Committee on the 4 March 2024 (Appendix 2). The majority of the items will appear each year as they relate directly to procedures that need to be carried out on an annual basis to fulfil regulatory requirements.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Fund has an Investment Strategy Statement and a Funding Strategy Statement designed to manage the financial position of the Fund. The Business Plan is designed to ensure that these two strategies are updated and implemented appropriately, and that the overall administration and management of the Fund is efficient and effective.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 The Fund has a Climate Risk Policy designed to minimise the Fund's contribution towards climate change and minimise the Fund's exposure to risk driven by climate change.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The business plan monitoring summary is provided at Appendix 1, the RAG ratings are summarised in the following table.

	Completed	Green	Amber	Red	Total
Number of Items	10	22	5	0	37
Percentage of Items	27%	59%	14%	0%	100%

- 4.2 The Green items on the Business Plan are principally not marked completed, as these projects will be continuing into the 24/25 year. Items like the newsletters and benefit statements are however marked as completed as they will become a new project for the next Plan.
- 4.3 We still have a number of amber items on the Business Plan. These include:
- 4.3.1 **(Item 8)** Review of complaints received; we have one outstanding IDRPs case that is still to be resolved.
 - 4.3.2 **(Item 12)** dealing with monitoring employer contributions, where there has been a slight hold up with the direct debit project that we launched. We hope the staffing capacity to look at this project will be available shortly.
 - 4.3.3 **(Item 19)** the implementation of a system to check underperforming funds, which officers are picking up with advisers, unfortunately this has been held up by a lack of officer capacity and
 - 4.3.4 **(Items 36 & 36)**, Compliance with the 2020 Stewardship Code and the implementation of TCFD disclosure requirements, which have been held up by officer capacity and staff turnover.
- 4.4 The Business Plan for 2024/25 was taken to the Staff and Pension Committee in June where the Plan was approved. The current Plan can be seen in Appendix 2.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 None.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 Warwickshire Pension Fund Business Plan Update for Q4
2. Appendix 2 Warwickshire Pension Fund Business Plan 2024/25

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

Local Member(s): n/a pension fund report

Other members: Cllr C Kettle & Cllr B Gifford