

Governance Policy Statement

Governance is the leadership, direction and control of organisations to ensure they achieve their aims and objectives. In public service organisations particularly these processes need to be clear and open to scrutiny.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2005 require administering authorities to prepare and maintain a separate written statement of governance policy on pension fund matters.



Background

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2005 require administering authorities to prepare and maintain a separate written statement of governance policy on pension fund matters.

Governance is the leadership, direction and control of organisations to ensure they achieve their aims and objectives. In public service organisations particularly these processes need to be clear and open to scrutiny.

Delegation of Pension Fund Management and Administration

The Council has delegated its pension fund management and administration functions to the Pensions Committee.

Pensions Committee Meetings

The Pensions Committee usually meets twice a year. Further meetings are arranged as necessary to deal with specific issues.

Committee meetings are held in the evenings at the Civic Offices in Bexleyheath, and are open to members of the public.

Reports to the Pensions Committee are published on the Council's website.



Committee meetings are held at the Civic Offices at six-month intervals. In addition the investment managers report to officers between Committee meetings.

Orders of Reference and Delegated Powers

The Orders of Reference for the Pensions Committee are:

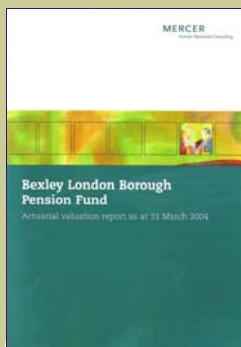
To oversee the management and investment of the Pension Fund.

The appointment of Fund Managers and independent Fund Advisers and the review of their performance.

Pension and retirement matters.

The Delegated Powers of the Pensions Committee are as follows:

To agree the investment strategy having regard to the advice of the Fund's managers and the independent adviser.



Actuarial valuations are produced annually.

To determine the Fund management arrangements and appointments of Fund Managers and Fund Advisers.

To agree to the admission of bodies into the Council's Pension Scheme.

To agree discretionary payments in respect of pension and retirement matters.

To agree actuarial valuations

The Pension Fund operates under the Local Government Pension Scheme and publishes separately its Statement of Investment Principles, Funding Strategy Statement and Communications Policy Statement.

Committee Membership

The committee consists of seven Members, with its membership allocated proportionally to party political representation on the full Council. The Committee also has three observers representing

Admitted and scheduled bodies,

Pensioners, and

Employees

although these observers do not have voting rights.

Training sessions are made available to Members and observers to assist them in making informed investment decisions and to keep them informed on other matters concerning the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Advice and Monitoring

The Pensions Committee is advised by the Director of Finance and Business Services, the Director of Law and Administration, the Fund's investment consultant and the Fund's investment managers. The Director of Finance and Business Services is responsible for ensuring that the in-house team is providing adequate support to the Committee.

The investment managers present to the Committee at six monthly intervals on the implementation of the investment policy. In between Committee meetings they report to the Director of Finance and Business Services on investment policy. The Pension Fund's performance is regularly assessed by an independent performance review organisation. The Fund's procedures are subject to audit and scrutiny by both the Council's internal audit team and by external auditors, the Audit Commission.

NEWTON



UBS

Global Asset Management

The investment managers present to the Committee at six monthly intervals



Written by Nigel Bate
020 8294 6647
e-mail nigel.bate@bexley.gov.uk