

7 March 2024**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT****CONFERENCES AND TRAINING****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the Training Plan 2024/25 for the Pension Fund Committee and the Nottinghamshire Pensions Board and approve Member attendance at conferences and training in 2024/25.

Information and Advice

2. The Fund is committed to ensuring those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills and this is achieved through attendance at key conferences and the provision of specific training and information for Members of both the Pension Fund Committee and the Nottinghamshire Pension Board.
3. DLUHC published its response to the consultation on LGPS: Next steps on Investments in November and set expectations that all Funds should have a formal Training Policy for Pension Fund Committee Members and report against it. Further guidance and regulations should follow in due course. This should deliver the long anticipated formalised training requirements signposted in the Good Governance recommendation made by the Scheme Advisory Board.
4. In addition the General Code of Practice was published in January and expected to come into effect in March. This sets out an expectation that all governing bodies should:-
 - Maintain a list of items the members of the governing body should be familiar with
 - Complete a Training Needs Analysis on a regular basis
 - Have a working knowledge of a list of items as relevant to their scheme.
5. Appendix A is a Joint Training Plan for the Pension Fund Committee and the Nottinghamshire Pension Board.
6. It is proposed to continue to attend key pension conferences and to ensure training is available.
7. The LGA's LGPS Fundamentals course is well regarded and it is proposed to continue to offer this course to new members of the Committee or those wishing to refresh existing knowledge.

8. The Pension Board has an established programme for required training and this will continue.
9. Approval is sought for attendance at the following conferences and training in 2024/25.

Conference	Location	Date	Attendance
External training/events			
LGPS Pooling Symposium	Birmingham	23-24 April 24	Committee chair 1 officer
PLSA Local Authority Conference	Gloucestershire	11-13 June 24	2 PFC Members 1 Officer If unfilled places may be offered to the Board.
LAPF Strategic Investment Forum	Hertfordshire	1-3 July 24	2 PFC Members 1 Officer
LAPFF Annual Conference	Bournemouth	4-6 Dec 24	1 PFC Member 1 Officer
LAPFF Business Meetings	Online/London	Quarterly	2 PFC Members 1 Officer
LGA LGPS Fundamentals Course	Various	October to December	All New PFC Members and any PFC Members requiring refresher training
LGPS Governance Conference	Unknown	January 25	2 PFC Members, 1 Board Member, 1 Officer
Internal training/events			
Pensions Board training from the Board Independent Adviser	Board meetings	Quarterly	Available to all members of Pension Board.
Climate Risk training from LGPS Central	Working Party	January 25	Available to all members of Pension Committee
Responsible investment training from LGPS Central	Working Party	Summer 24	Available to all members of Pension Committee and Pensions Board
Property Training/visits	Various	Tbc	Available to all members of Pension Committee
Portfolio related training – Index Linked Gilts	After PFC	March 24	Available to all members of Pension Committee
LGPS Central Responsible Investment summit	Teams event	Tbc	Available to all members of Pension Committee and Board

Conference	Location	Date	Attendance
LGPS Central trainings such as the Stakeholder Day	Online/ Birmingham	Various	Available to all members of Pension Committee and Board
Pool Board Chairs' meeting	Wolverhampton	Various	Board chair

10. Officers attend training courses where these are required to ensure they are properly skilled and qualified to fulfil their responsibilities.

Other Options Considered

11. Members and Officers could attend other conferences in addition to or instead of those suggested. The conferences suggested have proved useful and interesting in previous years. Not attending any such events was not considered due to the importance of ensuring that those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. Under the terms of the Council's constitution, the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee is responsible for the administration of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund and it is best practice to ensure that those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) The training plan in Appendix A is approved.
- 2) That attendance at conferences and training as set out in the report be approved.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director – Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LPW 15/02/2024)

14. The Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee is responsible for approving all Councillor attendance at conferences, seminars and training events within the UK within the remit of this

Committee. The proposals insofar as they relate to Councillors are within the remit of this Committee. Approval for officer attendance is a departmental matter.

Financial Comments (TMR 7/02/2024)

15. Costs associated with attending conferences and other training events are a legitimate charge to the Fund in accordance with governing regulations.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None