

13 February 2020**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT****CONFERENCES AND TRAINING****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for attendance at conferences and training in 2020/21.

Information

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.
3. Assets are continuing to be transferred to LGPS Central, however this will take place on a phased basis over a number of years. After transition asset allocation decisions will remain with the fund so it will be essential that Committee Members continue to receive appropriate up to date information on investment opportunities to enable them to hold LGPS Central to account and to ensure the funds allocation decisions represent the best option for the fund.
4. It is proposed to continue to attend key pension conferences and to ensure training is available. The LGA's LGPS Fundamentals course is well regarded by those who have attended and it is proposed to continue to offer this course to new members of the Committee or those wishing to refresh existing knowledge. In addition to the specific events listed below members are encouraged to attend the free trainings and briefings offered by industry bodies at no charge, and the internal training provided during the year covering both general pensions matter and any changes in legislation which impacts on the work of the Committee. Approval is sought for attendance at the following conferences and training in 2020/21.

Conference	Location	Date	Attendance
PLSA Local Authority Conference	Cotswolds	18-20 May 2020	2 Members 1 Officer
LAPF Strategic Investment Forum	Herts	6-8 July 20	2 Members 1 Officer
LAPFF Annual Conference	Bournemouth	Dec 2020	1 Members 1 Officer

Conference	Location	Date	Attendance
LAPFF Business Meetings	London	Quarterly	2 Members 1 Officer
Property Training/visits	Various	October 2020	Available to all members of Pension Committee
LGA LGPS Fundamentals Course	Various	October to December	New Members and Members requiring refresher training
LGPS Governance Conference (previously called the Trustees conference)	Tbc (York in 2020)	Tbc - Jan 21	2 Members 1 Officer

5. In addition to the above, the Committee has historically held additional training alongside the March committee meeting, which where appropriate may be at the offices of one of our main Fund Managers on a rotating basis, to allow for more in depth discussions on the relevant portfolio and incorporates some training provided by the Fund Manager. It is planned that these annual focussed meetings will continue as previously, extended to reflect our internally managed Specialist Portfolio and our passive equity investments but will be adapted as required to reflect requirements as investments transfer to the Pool.
6. Officers attend training courses where these are required to ensure they are properly skilled and qualified to fulfil their responsibilities.

Other Options Considered

7. 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 or have been recommended. The programme reflects positive experiences with these conferences in the previous year. 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

8. 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

9. 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

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:

Tamsin Rabbitts, Senior Accountant – Pensions and Treasury Management

Constitutional Comments (KK 30/01/2020)

10. 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 21/01/2020)

11. 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