

11 January 2018

Agenda Item: 6

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT &
IMPROVEMENT**

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for attendance at conferences and training in 2018/19.

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.
3. During the course of 2018/19 assets will begin 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 briefings will be arranged following any changes in legislation which impacts on the work of the Committee. Approval is sought for attendance at the following conferences and training in 2018/19.

Conference	Location	Date	Attendance
PLSA Local Authority Conference (formerly NAPF)	Cotswolds	May 2018	1 Member 1 Officer
LGE LGPS "Trustees" Conference	Bournemouth	June 2018	2 Members 1 Officer
LGC Investment Summit	Cardiff	Sep 2018	2 Members 1 Officer
LAPFF Annual Conference	Bournemouth	Dec 2018	1 Member 1 Officer
LAPFF Business Meetings	London	Quarterly	1 Member

			1 Officer
Property Training	Nottingham	October 2018	Available to all members of Pension Committee
LGA LGPS Fundamentals Course	Various	October to December	New Members and Members requiring refresher training

5. In addition to the above, the Committee has historically held one of the quarterly investment meetings each year at the offices of our 3 main Fund Managers on a rotating basis. This covers the fund's main equity, bond and property holdings. This allows for more in depth discussions on the relevant portfolio and incorporates some training provided by the Fund Manager.
6. The fund has an extensive in-house portfolio covering private equity, passive equity holdings (internally managed and held by Legal & General) and a small number of direct investments. The total value of these holdings as at 30/09/17 is £2,482m (49% of the fund's value). This element of the fund's holdings has not been subject to detailed scrutiny by Members for a number of years and it would be appropriate to include this in the rotating review to ensure it is subject to the same level of scrutiny as the other elements of the fund's holdings. As such it is proposed that the March Pension Fund Committee meeting is followed by presentations to Members on the in-house holdings. Relevant training will also be provided.
7. Officers attend training courses on non-residential courses where these are required to ensure they are properly skilled and qualified to fulfil their responsibilities.

Other Options Considered

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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) That attendance at conferences and training as set out in the report be approved.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director – Finance, Procurement and Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 02/01/2018)

11. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee.

Financial Comments (KRP 23/12/2017)

12. 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