

**2 February 2022**

**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 2022/23.

#### **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. The Good Governance in the LGPS report has recommended new Statutory Guidance to contain an enhanced requirement for key individuals within the LGPS, including Pension Committee Members to have knowledge and understanding to carry out their roles effectively and this may formalise training requirements in the near future.
3. Assets are continuing to be transferred to LGPS Central, which 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.
5. The LGA's LGPS Fundamentals course is well regarded and it is proposed to continue to offer this course to new members of the Committees or those wishing to refresh existing knowledge.
6. 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 any other internal training provided during the year covering both general pensions matters and any changes in legislation which impact on the work of the Committee. Members are encouraged to inform the Senior Accountant – Pensions when they attend training sessions so the training record can be updated.

7. Approval is sought for attendance at the following conferences and training in 2022/23.

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>External training/events</b>			
PLSA Local Authority Conference	Gloucestershire	13-15 June 22	2 Members 1 Officer
LAPF Strategic Investment Forum	Hertfordshire	4-6 July 22	2 Members 1 Officer
LAPFF Annual Conference	Probably Bournemouth	December 22	1 Member 1 Officer
LAPFF Business Meetings	Online/London	Quarterly	2 Members 1 Officer
LGA LGPS Fundamentals Course	Various	October to December	New Members and Members requiring refresher training
LGPS Governance Conference	Unknown	January 23	2 Members, 1 Board Member, 1 Officer
<b>Internal training/events</b>			
Climate Risk training from LGPS Central	Working Party	January 22	Available to all members of Pension Committee
Responsible investment training from LGPS Central	Working Party	Summer 22	Available to all members of Pension Committee
Property Training/visits	Various	October 2022	Available to all members of Pension Committee
Investment portfolio training	After PFC	March 23	Available to all members of Pension Committee
LGPS Central trainings such as the Responsible Investment Day	Online/ Birmingham	Various	Available to all members of Pension Committee

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

### **Other Options Considered**

9. 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**

10. 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**

11. 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, Infrastructure and Improvement**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Tamsin Rabbitts, Senior Accountant – Pensions and Treasury Management

## **Constitutional Comments (CEH 05/01/2022)**

12. 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 30/12/2021)**

13. 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