

**11 March 2021****Agenda Item: 7****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 2021/22.

**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. 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. Over the last year, many conferences have moved to online events and have become free to attend. Where this is the case there is no internal limitation on Members attending. For 21/22 this trend may continue which may enable additional Members to access these events. However some other conferences did not take place last year and have not published plans for 2021. Members are encouraged to inform the Senior Accountant – Pensions when they attend training sessions so the training record can be updated.
5. 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 Committees or those wishing to refresh existing knowledge. This course did not run in 2020, but it is hoped that it will be available in physical or virtual format in autumn 2021.
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. Approval is sought for attendance at the following conferences and training in 2021/22 if these are available.

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>External training/events</b>			
PLSA Local Authority Conference	Online	18-19 May 21	Unlimited (previously 2 Members 1 Officer)
LAPF Strategic Investment Forum	Hertfordshire	5-6 July 21	2 Members 1 Officer
LAPFF Annual Conference	Unknown	Unknown (previously Dec)	(previously 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	Unknown (previously spring)	(previously 2 Members 1 Officer)
<i>PLSA Investment conference</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>March 22</i>	<i>New If online this is available to all Members at zero cost</i>
<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 21	Available to all members of Pension Committee
Property Training/visits	Various	October 2021	Available to all members of Pension Committee
Investment portfolio training	After PFC	March 22	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

7. 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.
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 (KK 15/02/2021)**

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 02/02/2021)**

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