Pensions Committee

Date       Monday 21st October 2019
Time       7.00 p.m.
Venue      Lister Room, Newham Town Hall, East Ham, E6 2RP

Contact:  Pauline Egan, Democratic and Governance Officer
          Pauline.Egan@newham.gov.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors:
Nazir Ahmed
Zulfiqar Ali
James Asser
Joshua Garfield (Vice-Chair)
John Gray
Nilufa Jahan
Nareser Osei (Chair)
Tonii Wilson

(Quorum: 3)

Trade Union Representatives:
Unison - Gloria Hanson
Unite – Brenda Bedminster
GMB - Stella Ikanik

Officers usually in attendance:
1. Conrad Hall, Corporate Director of Resources
2. Stephen Wild, Head of Pensions & Treasury
3. Rakesh Rajan, Pensions Manager, LBN

Investment Adviser (Barnett Waddingham)
Pete Smith

Independent Advisor
Forhad Hussain
Agenda

1. **Apologies**
   
   To receive any apologies for absence from Members.

2. **Declaration of Interests**
   
   In accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct this is the time for Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any matters being considered at this meeting having regard to the guidance attached to this agenda.

   The Monitoring Officer, under Section 33(2) of the Localism Act, has granted the general dispensations to all Members until the Annual Council meeting in 2022, on the grounds that the dispensation is in the interests of the inhabitants of Newham and/or it is appropriate to grant the dispensation to maintain a similar position as applied under the previous code of conduct. This means Members do not need to leave the meeting if their Disclosable Pecuniary Interest arises and is: ....

   .... *The Local Government Pension Scheme unless relating specifically to their own circumstances.*

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 1 - 8)**
   
   The Committee are asked to agree that the public minutes of the last meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 23 July 2019 are an accurate record.

4. **Pensions Administration Update (Pages 9 - 14)**
   
   This report updates members on the current status of the Administration of the Newham Pension Fund.

5. **Pension Fund Business Plan Update (Pages 15 - 22)**
   
   Update on the Newham Pension Fund (“the Fund”) business plan and developments since the last meeting held on 23 July 2019.

   **Recommendations**
   
   The Pensions Committee (PC) is asked to note:
   
   - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) return - Indicative transfer of assets to the LCIV
   - Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Objectives Report
   - Fund’s Budget Monitor and Cash Flow update

5a) **Appendix 1 MHCLG Return: Transfer of Assets (Pages 23 - 24)**
6. **Investment Strategy Update (Pages 33 - 38)**

**Purpose of Report**
To update the Committee on the investment strategy and make decisions on the Fund’s transition to the long term strategic asset allocation.

**Recommendations**
The Pensions Committee (PC) is asked to note:
- Performance of the Fund’s investments and Funding Level at Q2 (30/06/19)
- The current mandate of the Fund’s structured equity manager includes currency hedging.
- To delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources in consultation with the Chair the power to consider a business case on the currency hedging weightings between now and the next Pensions Committee.
- The Scheme Investment Adviser’s (SIA) paper sets out the equity manager options and the next steps.

The Pensions Committee (PC) is asked to agree:
- The decision to invest £20m in a Global Agriculture Open-end Fund.

6a) **Appendix A - Performance of the Fund's Investments and Funding Level at Q2 - 30/9/2019 - BW (Pages 39 - 46)**


In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee is asked to resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for specific items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended.

This exemption relates to:
Item 8 Investment Strategy Appendices (b) Equity Manager Options and (c) Real Asset Manager Allocation; and
Item 9 Exempt Minutes of the Last Meeting.

8. **Investment Strategy Update - Exempt Appendices**
8a) Appendix B Equity Manager Option (Pages 47 - 48)
8b) Appendix C Real Asset Manager Allocation (Pages 49 - 56)

9. Exempt Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 57 - 62)

The Committee are asked to agree that the exempt minutes of the last meeting of the Pensions Committee held on 23 July 2019 are an accurate record.

10. To consider the extent, if any, to which the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting


PAPERS TO FOLLOW:

Purpose of Report

To update members on the LCIV’s Remuneration Policy

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pensions Committee is scheduled for Thursday 19 December 2019 at 6.30pm at Newham Town Hall.