



PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	The Pensions Regulator (tPR) In Depth Engagement
SLT Lead:	Jane West Section 151 Officer
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Policy context:	Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 and Public Service Pensions (Record Keeping and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2014
Financial summary:	There is no financial impact of this report

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[x]
Places making Havering	[x]
Opportunities making Havering	[x]
Connections making Havering	[x]

SUMMARY

The Pensions Regulator (tPR) are conducting an in depth engagement with a sample of Local Government Pension Schemes and have chosen Havering as one of the funds that they would like to review. The review will identify strengths and areas for development for Havering. tPR will publish a report of their findings across all reviews that provides a picture of the pension scheme reviewed. This will be on an anonymous basis. The review will focus on the governance and administration of the Scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee note the review by tPR. Any resulting actions will be reported to the Committee at the conclusion of the review.

REPORT DETAIL

tPR carry out an annual Governance and Administration Survey amongst all public service pension schemes and the results from the last survey showed that improvements in the Local Government Pension Scheme had stalled.

The purpose of tPR's review is to understand the challenges that schemes are facing, to monitor how schemes are performing and suggest improvements and relevant actions.

The LGPS is made up of approximately 100 individual funds and 10% have been selected for review. London Borough of Havering is one of those. Schemes have been chosen at random based on their geographical location and the size of fund. tPR have emphasised that they have no specific concerns regarding the governance and administration of the Havering Fund.

The review will comprise of 5 meetings. The areas to be reviewed are:

- Administrator Risk
- Record Keeping
- Member Communications
- Internal Controls
- Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure
- Maintaining Contributions

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- Employer Non-Compliance
- Affordability & Funding
- Pension Board Members Knowledge and Understanding
- Relationships between the Scheme Manager and the Pension Board
- Conflicts of Interest
- Fraud/Misappropriation of assets
- Scams
- Cyber Security

tPR will provide an observations letter after each meeting confirming any areas that they have identified for improvement along with any strengths.

London Borough of Havering are learning from, and sharing experiences with other authorities that have been selected for review.

The process is expected to take about 6 months and we will report back to Committee confirming outcomes.

tPR will provide a report of its findings across all the selected Local Government Pension Schemes. Although the report may contain information regarding Havering, we will not be named.

Existing resources within the Council's workforce will be required to support the meetings with tPR and to take any action required following the conclusion of the engagement.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There appear to be no financial implications or risks arising from this report

Legal implications and risks:

There are no apparent legal implications arising from consideration of this Report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There appear to be no HR implications or risks arising that impact on the Council's workforce. However, there will be resources required from the Shared Service to support the meetings with the Pensions Regulator which will need to be drawn from existing resources.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are no direct equality implications regarding this matter