

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBER TRAINING**

Report of the County Treasurer

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Committee be asked to approve the proposed training programme for the Autumn

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Devon Pension Fund has had a longstanding commitment to training for Committee and Board members to ensure that they have the skills and understanding required to carry out their stewardship role. In the past this has included training events that have been held in the Autumn and Spring of each year, in recent years along with a day focused on the setting up and operation of the Brunel Pension Partnership.
- 1.2 As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, it will not be possible to hold this year's Autumn training day in the usual format. This report sets out how it is proposed to ensure that Committee and Board members continue to have their knowledge and skills updated during the Autumn.

### **2. PROPOSED TRAINING**

- 2.1 A key part of the Training Plan is that all Committee and Board members should complete The Pension Regulator (TPR)'s public sector toolkit and the investment section of the TPR Trustee Toolkit. Not all members have yet completed this, and some have commented that they would appreciate more support in completing the toolkit.
- 2.2 It is therefore proposed that a number of sessions will be run to go through the elements of the toolkit. Members can then undertake the self-assessment questions, either on-line or using a paper version that will be supplied. It is suggested that those members who have already undertaken the TPR self-assessment could still attend the sessions to refresh their knowledge. The sessions will be provided via a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting. Dates will be emailed out to Committee and Board members in due course, but it is anticipated that each session will be run more than once so that everyone can be accommodated. The dates are likely to be in late October or November to tie in with completion of the training manual being put together by officers.

- 2.3 In addition, videos will be emailed out for Committee and Board members to view, which will replace the speaker line-up that we would have had at the usual training event. We are still working on the process for this, but we recognise that a full day of watching a screen is not ideal, so we will attempt to provide links to videos that members can watch in their own time. If members have questions arising from the videos, then officers will be happy to answer them.
- 2.4 Committee and Board members are accountable for undertaking the appropriate training and attendance records are usually published to provide public accountability. It will be possible to record who has undertaken the toolkit sessions, but we will also ask members to confirm when they have watched the videos provided.
- 2.5 It has also been the practice for Brunel to provide an engagement day during the Autumn. Again, it will not be possible to provide this at a venue, but Brunel are looking at how they can provide a virtual event. When we have further details we will notify Board and Committee members.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The current social-distancing requirements resulting from the pandemic make it impossible to run the usual training days this Autumn. However, the proposal outlined above should ensure that we retain our commitment to keeping the knowledge and skills of Committee and Board members up to date and in compliance with the requirements of the Pensions Act 2004 and the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework.

Mary Davis  
County Treasurer

[Electoral Divisions: All]

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972:**  
**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS: NIL**  
Contact for Enquiries: **Mark Gayler**  
Tel No: **01392 383621** Room: **G97**