

**DEVON PENSION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**  
Report of the County Treasurer

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

Recommendation: **that the Board consider the Devon Pension Board Annual Report for 2020/21**

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Devon Pension Fund Annual Report 2020/21 will be considered for approval by the Investment and Pension Fund Committee later this year. The report will contain the statement of accounts together with other information about the Fund's performance during the year, including the Devon Pension Board Annual Report.

**2. Devon Pension Board Annual Report 2020/21**

- 2.1. The Devon Pension Board Annual Report details the work undertaken by the Board during 2020/21. The report highlights the areas reviewed by the Board, and the key recommendations that have been reported to and acted upon by the Investment and Pension Fund Committee.
- 2.2. Officers have constructed an initial draft of the report for consideration and review by the Board, which is attached at Appendix 1.

**3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. The Board is asked to consider the Devon Pension Board Annual Report 2020/21.

Mary Davis  
County Treasurer

Electoral Divisions: All

**Local Government Act 1972:**

**List of Background Papers - Nil**

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## DEVON PENSION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Devon Pension Board was established in 2015, following the introduction of new governance arrangements by the Public Sector Pensions Act 2013. This act sets out the requirements for the establishment of a local pensions board with the responsibility for assisting the LGPS local scheme managers (Devon County Council) in relation to the following:

- compliance with LGPS regulations and any other relevant legislation;
- compliance with requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the LGPS;
- the effective and efficient governance and administration of the LGPS.

The Board makes recommendations to the County Council principally through its Investment and Pension Fund Committee and to Officers to improve governance standards. The Board may also, in exceptional circumstances and where relevant, also refer matters to the Scheme Advisory Board.

The Board is composed of four representatives of scheme members, four representatives of scheme employers and one non-voting independent member and meets four times a year.

Devon Pension Board as at 31 March 2021

| Role                          | Member               | Date of Appointment | Date left | Number of meetings attended (max 3) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Employer Representatives      | Colin Slade          | September 2018      |           | 3                                   |
|                               | Carrie Piper         | February 2020       |           | 3                                   |
|                               | Carl Hearn           | May 2015            |           | 3                                   |
|                               | Sara Randall Johnson | May 2016            |           | 3                                   |
| Scheme Member representatives | Andy Bowman          | May 2015            |           | 3                                   |
|                               | Colin Shipp          | April 2016          |           | 2                                   |
|                               | Paul Phillips        | August 2017         |           | 3                                   |
|                               | Julie Bailey         | April 2019          |           | 3                                   |
| Independent                   | William Nicholls     | October 2015        |           | 3                                   |

Some of the key areas of work undertaken by the Board during 2020/21 are detailed below:

- **Review of the internal audit reports for 2020/21 and the Internal Audit Plan.** As requested by the Board previously, the board was provided with an audit action log at each meeting to enable the board to monitor the progress of recommendations arising from internal audits. The Board considered a report from officers regarding amending the planned audit programme in order to audit changed working practices due to the pandemic.

- **Devon Pension Fund Risk Register.** During 2020/21, the Pension Board have reviewed the Risk Register and made a number of suggestions which were adopted by the Investment and Pension Fund Committee. These included the risk of negative interest rates and the effect on the pension fund and the issues around the McCloud judgement. The risk register was subsequently updated to include the board's recommendations.
- **Pension fund governance.** The Board considered reports covering contribution monitoring that is undertaken by officers throughout the year. The board also reviewed the fund's breaches report and was satisfied that the low level of breaches were all non-material.
- **Statutory Statements.** The Board conducted a review of the fund's Statutory Statements and made suggestions for improvements where necessary. This review included The Investment Strategy Statement which was updated following the revision to the Stewardship Code. The Governance Policy was also reviewed by the board following a revision to the voting rights of union representatives sitting on the Pension and Investment Committee.
- **Minutes from Investment & Pension Fund Committee meetings.** The Board reviewed each set of minutes from the Investment & Pension Fund Committee meetings held during 2020/21 to ensure that decisions have been made in accordance with the terms of reference.
- **Administration Performance.** The Board regularly review the performance statistics of Peninsula Pensions against local performance and the Disclosure Regulations.
- **Training and Attendance.** The Board gave consideration to the Annual Training Plan and conducted a review of the attendance of Board members at meetings and training events. At the board's request, the attendance log is now included as a standard agenda item at all board meetings.

It is a legislative requirement that Pension Board members have the capacity to take on the role, and it is expected that members should receive relevant training. Pension Board members are expected to complete The Pension Regulator's Public Sector Toolkit to ensure that Board members have sufficient knowledge and skills to carry out their role effectively. To date six members of the board have successfully completed the online training programme.

More information on the work of the Devon Pension Board can be found on the Peninsula Pensions website, including links to minutes, agendas and reports from meetings of the Board and the contact details of Board members:

<https://www.peninsulapensions.org.uk/pension-fund-investments/devon-county-council-investments/pension-board/>