Purpose: For decision



Committee FULL COUNCIL

Date 17 NOVEMBER 2021

Title LOCAL PENSION BOARD

Report of MONITORING OFFICER

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the revised terms of reference for the Local Pension Board and for appointments to be formally made to it.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 2. The council is, by law, the administering authority and is required to establish a pension board under section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and under section 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended).
- 3. The Local Pension Board is not a decision-making body and its statutory purpose of is, in effect, to assist the council (and more specifically the council's Pension Fund Committee) in ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Isle of Wight Local Government Pension Scheme.
- 4. The Board was established by decision of the Full Council on 21 January 2015 as from 1 April 2015, and a review has been recently undertaken, including a review of its terms of reference and the appointments process.
- 5. The suggested changes are, amongst other things, designed to make the terms of reference more reader friendly, not least through the inclusion of further headings, and to be more consistent and coherent.
- 6. The current terms of reference are set out on pages 44 46 of the council's constitution PART 3 Terms of Ref of Committees and boards.pdf (moderngov.co.uk).
- 7. The review led to proposed revised terms of reference for the Local Pension Board as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 8. Another outcome from this review was the need to look at how appointments are formally made to the Local Pension Board, and to make clear that it is the responsibility of the council as the administering authority to make appointments, including when nominations have been put forward.

- 9. Due to the current vacancy situation, the Local Pension Board is presently not quorate, and to rectify this, a recruitment exercise is being undertaken at the time of writing this report (8 November 2021), with the intention of appointments being made by the Council on 17 November 2021.
- Appendix 2 to this report contains (at the time of writing this report) the names of persons put forward for appointment and will be further revised once the recruitment process has further progressed.

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

11. Good governance arrangements are essential to the delivery of the council's services and the decision-making process that support this.

# **CONSULTATION**

12. This is ongoing at the time of writing this report.

#### FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

13. The costs of the Local Pension Board will be funded directly from the Pension Fund, and will have no direct impact on the council's budget at all.

#### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. As set out in the report.

#### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

15. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. It is not considered that the content of this report has any negative impact on any of the protected characteristics.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

16. The council is required to ensure that the Local Pension Board is properly established and so this report is brought before the Council so that this obligation is met.

#### **EVALUATION**

17. This report informs the council of the need to make appointments and seeks to improve the terms of reference of the Local Pension Board.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 18. That the revised terms of reference of the Local Pension Board in Appendix 1 be duly approved.
- 19. That the appointments to the Local Pension Board as set out in Appendix 2 (as revised) be duly approved.

## **APPENDICIES ATTACHED**

- 20. Appendix 1
- 21. Appendix 2

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

22. None.

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