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Powys Pensions Board

Meeting Venue
By Zoom

Meeting Date
Wednesday, 3 May 2023

Meeting Time
3.00 pm



County Hall Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 5LG

For further information please contact **Rachel Pugh** 01597 826496 rachel.pugh1@powys.gov.uk

26.04.2023

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE BOARD

To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 10 February 2023 as a correct record.

(Pages 3 - 10)

4. MATTERS ARISING

Verbal update from the Chair.

5. REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER

To review the Risk Register and consider any new risks. (Pages 11 - 18)

6. FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

2023

12 June – 2pm 11 September – 2pm 20 November - 10am

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POWYS PENSIONS BOARD HELD AT BY TEAMS ON FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT Gerard Moore (Chair)

David Powell (Scheme Member Representative)
John Byrne (Scheme Member Representative)
Wayne Thomas (Employer Representative)
Graham Evans (Employer Representative)

Chris Hurst (Pension Fund Manager, Secretary to the Board)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Nigel Brinn (Employer Representative)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE BOARD

The minutes of the meetings held on 28 October 2022 and 21 November 2022 were agreed as correct records.

4. MATTERS ARISING

28 October 2022

Item 16 – In response to a query around the member benefit data scoring of 85.32% the Pension Fund Manager advised that the errors due to historic aggregation of records within Powys was being addressed and issues with the address formatting accuracy were being addressed by the report writers.

Item 18a – The Pension Fund Manager now has access to a set of data used to record contribution returns and reconciliations which is monitored monthly In addition, 45% employers are now sending monthly data electronically so the administration is moving towards a more electronic process rather than manual processing, however the overall data electronically received is approximately 90%. It was noted that The Pension Regulator [TPR] in its annual survey asks for the percentage of data from employers received electronically. The Board agreed that comment should be made to TPR that for a scheme such as the Powys Fund, where the Authority is the main employer, a question should be asked regarding how much data is received electronically.

5. MINUTES OF PENSIONS AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the Pensions and Investment Committee of 07 October 2022 and 24 November 2022.

The Board noted:

the Powys Fund had submitted the SR3 annual return by the due date.

- the Board's recommendations were approved by the Committee and changes were made to the Data Improvement Plan and Communications Strategy.
- the Fund's Accounts and Annual Report was published by 1 December 2022 and Audit Wales had issued an unqualified report for the accounts.

Minutes of the Pensions and Investment Committee 16 December 2022 will be shared when available.

The Chair commented that a new member of the Committee, at the Committee meeting on 16 December had praised the assistance from the Board on the Risk Register in depth reviews.

6. THE PENSION REGULATOR [TPR] CODES OF PRACTICE

The Pension Fund Manager confirmed focus areas had been reviewed and changes evidenced. The Board noted that where changes had been made to the score colour the previous colour was noted on the right-hand side, so creating an audit trail [numbers refer to the Compliance indicator]:

Governing your Scheme [38 - 60]

The annual training needs assessments analysis would take place by April and completed by Committee and Board.

40 and 41- remains amber with no changes to scores, due to ongoing training.

Comments were made that the document was comprehensive, and the analysis was helpful to monitor progress. The Board was reminded that TPR would be consolidating ten of the fifteen codes into one including the current Code 14 which is applicable to public sector pension schemes and the Board would need to help determine what elements of the other nine codes incorporated into the new code are relevant.

The new code, once it has been laid before Parliament, will have significant training implications for the Board, Committee and Pension Team. However, the Pension Fund Manager advised that the Pension Team have a good base to work from.

The Chair commented that the transitional issues would take time rather than the ongoing monitoring and it was hoped that the Local Government Association (LGA) would provide guidance.

Conflicts of interest and representation [62 – 91]

76, 77 and 81 have now changed from amber to green, due to the Conflict of Interest Policy being approved and published.

Administration [124 – 146] Noted.

7. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT & UPDATE

The Board received the Operational and Administration report.

Section 1-Introduction

The Board congratulated the newly qualified officer in the Pension Team on successfully achieving and undertaking the significant qualification. It was noted that other staff were also studying for formal qualifications and the Board considered this was important for the resilience of the relatively small Team.

The Chair passed on thanks to the member of the Pension Team volunteering for the Ombudsman's pool of pension staff who review individual complaint cases which demonstrated Team motivation.

It was agreed that the Pension Fund Manager would extend meeting invitations to the Team, in addition to induction modules to help development.

Section 2- Pensions Administration Financial Statistic – Income & Expenditure

A query was answered around the marked difference around the employer and employee contributions, which was due to the National Joint Council (NJC) pay awards processed in November and backdated to April, with pensions contributions on arrears of pay.

Section 3- Pensions Administration members statistics

New reporting software allowed easier presentation of data and additional detail to be provided if needed. The current data set is unable to provide who is eligible but not in the scheme.

The Member Employment Records by Status graph showed an accumulative figure showing all records since the scheme began. The graphs reflected the administration burden on the Team and what is being managed. The information regarding age profile has been shared with the Actuary.

8. LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE

The Board noted the Legislation and Governance Update.

The Pension Fund Manager highlighted:

Section 2 – Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS] updates

- 2.1 the Scheme Advisory Board [SAB] met with the Minster responsible for the Local Government Scheme around amendments to the LGPS regulations. He was unsure of the impact of the implications and liabilities around the death grant and age barrier of seventy-five and would reflect if the age range data 75-80 (item 7) should be split to allow for planning where potential death grants could be paid.
- 2.3 Once signed the Scheme Valuation Report would be sent to the Scheme Advisory Board and shared with the Board.

2.4 – Scheme Advisory Board have issued a statement around funding levels within LGPS, as many funds are over one hundred percent funded, it asked for funds to be considerate when setting the employer contributions.

3. Pension Dashboards

Work was ongoing towards the launch of the Portal, with project work around aggregations.

The Board agreed to add the Pension Dashboard to the Work Programme and add this as a single item on an agenda when the LGA guidance has been received.

4.The Pensions Regulator (TPR)

- 4.2 the Board was made aware that the TPR have updated the Enforcement and Prosecution policies.
- 4.4 the Financial Conduct Authority [FCA] and the TPR are undertaking joint work.

9. REVIEW OF RISK REGISTER

The Board noted the Risk Register. Comment was made that although the Scheme's cashflow is currently positive reference should be made to the fact that, over time this may change and reference to this and how communications are managed regarding such a change should be included in the Risk Register.

The Governance Pillar element of the Risk Register was being updated to reflect the outcomes of the in-depth review, which had been agreed by the Committee.

The Board supported that the Pensions Dashboard would be added under the Administration Pillar of the Risk Register and a potential risk would be the integration of the two-Stage process for internal dispute resolution procedure which is currently wholly managed internally.

The Board:

- 1. Agreed to set a date in April for the Investment Pillar in-depth review.
- 2. The Pension Dashboard to be added to the Administration Pillar.

10. TPR ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SURVEY

The Board noted the content of the report, and that the survey would be submitted before the deadline of 17 February 2023.

11. STANDING ITEMS WITH NO UPDATES REQUIRED

The Board noted the following in respect of standing items:

a) Breaches Register - there were no new breaches recorded.

The Pension Fund Manager is working with finance colleagues around the approach to employer contribution returns. A communication plan has been developed which also offers training to employers which

includes LGPS responsibilities.

- b) Audit Reports a SWAP audit is being conducted with the Pensions Administration Team which concludes on 31 March 2023.
- c) Board Communications Log reports attached for information.

12. | FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

The Board noted the 2023 meeting dates:

12 June – 2pm

11 September – 2pm

20 November - 10am

April – Investment Pillar in-depth review of the Risk Register

An open invitation will be sent to Councillor Roger Philips, Chair of the Scheme Advisory Board [SAB] to attend a Board meeting later this year.

13. | CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 106 [8] Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS] Regulations 2013 the Board goes into the confidential agenda with the public and press being excluded as some of the information may relate to financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation.

14. UPDATE BY CHAIR OF PENSIONS BOARD

The Chair advised he would continue in his role until the end of July 2024. He advised he would hold his annual meeting with the S151 Officer later in February 2023. He asked that the Workplan be reviewed once the deep dive into the Investment Pillar of the Risk Register is completed.

In response to a question the Pension Fund Manager advised that the Employers Representative vacancy was actively being filled, information regarding the vacancy had been raised at the annual Employers meeting in December 2022 and this had been followed up by email. He hoped to receive nominations by the end of February 2023. In respect of the Scheme Member representative vacancy, he advised he had discussed this with the Chair and S151 Officer and the current Scheme Member representative was discussing the vacancy with union colleagues.

15. VALUATION UPDATE

The Pension Fund Manager provided an overview of the Actuary's report regarding the Actuarial valuation as at 31 March 2022.

The Board noted the valuation process, the financial and demographic assumptions and the improvements in the fund in key areas. The Pension Fund Manager advised that the volatility in the markets since 31 March 2022 had been

taken into account and the Actuaries had advised that this had not materially impacted the valuation.

The Board reflected on the report positively and the prudent approach being taken in respect of the value for money for taxpayers and the stability of the fund. The Board noted that the employers had received the initial valuation results at the Employers meeting in December 2022 and had now been advised of their contributions from 1 April 2023.

16. WALES PENSION PARTNERSHIP - INVESTMENT POOLING UPDATE [STANDING ITEM]

The Board noted the Wales Pension Partnership – Investment Pooling Update.

The Pension Fund Manager highlighted the following:

The complaints policy for constituent authorities to raise a complaint against the WPP has been approved and published.

The Responsible Investment Policy has been updated and published which introduces reference to Human Rights.

The Sustainable Equity Fund should be available from the end of April 2023 and the Powys Pension Fund has committed to invest in this.

The Pension Fund Manager advised that the eight constituent authorities in the WPP had asked for a common set of communications from the WPP to ensure consistency and accuracy in the information received and this would commence soon. The Chair advised that the eight Board Chairs had met the WPP and he assured the Board that appropriate considerations are being given towards risks associated with a Pooling operator.

The Pension Fund Manager in response to comments about class actions advised that when required he would provide information regarding these.

17. INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE [IDRP]

The Pension Fund Manager advised that one complaint had moved to Stage 2. The complaint related to the payment of a pension under specific circumstances to a surviving partner.

It was noted that the Ombudsman may look to integrate the two stage complaints procedure into one and the Pension Fund Manager agreed to review whether this should be added to the Risk Register.

18. GMP RECONCILIATION UPDATE

The Board noted the GMP Reconciliation Update.

The Pension Fund Manager reported that the February 2023 payroll would include rectifications for those pensioner memberships impacted by the GMP reconciliation project. It was noted that reimbursements were not being sought from those who had received overpayments in line with the Fund's overpayment policy and national approach, but their benefits would be adjusted from the February 2023 payroll.

Information about the GMP reconciliation would be included in the letter regarding the pensions increase to complete the communications audit trail. The Board noted that a remapping exercise is underway to reconcile Pensions with Payroll to satisfy an Audit request.

County Councillor Moore (Chair)



2023.

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Powys Pension Board 3rd May 2023

REPORT BY: Board Secretary

SUBJECT: Risk Register

REPORT FOR: Information

1. **Summary**

At the meeting of the 6th of September 2022, Board decided to arrange additional meetings to consider the separate pillars of the Fund's risk register in more detail.

As a result of those reviews to date, the Pensions and Investment Committee have agreed to the Board's recommendation to revisit some of the scores awarded to some of the risks on the registers.

2. Risk Register

2.1 This meeting will consider the remaining pillar of the risk register (Investment) by performing another deep dive into the individual risks that make up the risk register for this pillar. The Investment risk register is included as an appendix to this report for consideration.

3. Recommendation

Board are asked to note the contents of this report and consider the Investment risk register.



Investment Risk Register report

Risk Title

DATE :

Net Risk Level Change Risk Owner

Summary of Risks Ratings

Red Risks

Risk Register

Almost Certain	0	0	0	0	0
Likely	0	0	0	0	0
Possible	0	0	0	0	0
Unlikely	2	6	3	0	0
Rare	0	0	0	0	0
Unassigned 0	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic

Risk Register	Risk Title	Net Risk Leve	l Risk Owner
ag			
New Risks		П	otal:
	Risk Title	Net Risk Level Risk Owner	Created Date
Risk Register	1.10.1.1.1.10		5.00.00.20.0
Changing Risks			
Changing Moto		Total	

Total:

Detail							
	Investment Risk						
			Portfolio				
Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence		Inherent	Residual	Lateral Philips St. 1	
Date Identified			Owner		Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
lachanea							
INVEST0001	Pension Fund assets fail to deliver returns	Increased employer contribution	Cllr David	6	4	08/09/2020	Review Summary: Regular investment performance reviews. Investigate
25/01/2016	in line with the anticipated returns underpinning the valuation of liabilities over	rates.	<i>Thomas</i> Chris Hurst			1	protection strategies as/when/if required
	the long-term.					21/12/2020	Review Summary: Regular investment performance reviews. Investigate
	Controls and Actions				Latest Contro	al Reviews	protection strategies as/when/if required Review Date
	anticipate long-term returns on a relatively prude	ent basis to reduce the risk of under-perl	formance.	Control In	Latest Contro	or iteviews	Neview Date
	Only anticipate long-term returns on a relatively	•		Place			
	under-performance. Also monitors and analyses		nployer. In				
	addition, the Fund receives quarterly funding up	dates to help monitor the position.	Portfolio				
Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	rontiono	Inhovent			
Date			Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
Identified							
INVEST0002	Inappropriate long-term investment	Failure to meet funding	Cllr David	8	4	08/09/2020	Review Summary: New ISS operated for 2020. regularly reviewed as
05/04/0040	strategy.	objectives.	Thomas	0	-	00/03/2020	Fund/WPP develops
25/01/2016			Chris Hurst			21/12/2020	Review Summary: Review regularly depending on conditions and WPP
							sub fund availability
Ø	Controls and Actions				Latest Contro	ol Reviews	Review Date
ge	Use of a Fund specific benchmark, as recomme Use of a Fund specific benchmark, as recomme			Control In Place			
(D	coo or a rana opeome penerman, ac recomme	naca by the rand of investment constitu	Portfolio	Place			
Risk Ret	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	7 67 67 67	Inherent	Residual		
Date			Owner	imerent	Residuai	Latest Risk Reviews	
Identified							
INVEST0003	Active investment manager	Failure to meet funding	Cllr David	4	2	08/09/2020	Review Summary: Regularly reviewed with Investment Consultant and
25/01/2016	under-performance relative to the benchmark.	objectives.	<i>Thomas</i> Chris Hurst				Manager changes made as required
25/01/2010	benchmark.		Cilis Huist			21/12/2020	Review Summary: Regularly reviewed with Investment Consultant and
					1 1 10 1		Manager changes made as required
	Controls and Actions	alvess market performance and estive m	2000000		Latest Contro	DI Reviews	Review Date
	Short-term (quarterly) investment monitoring and relative to their index benchmark.	alyses market performance and active m	nanagers	Control In Place			
	Short-term (quarterly) investment monitoring and	alyses market performance and active m	nanagers	Flace			
	relative to their index benchmark.		Doutfalia				
Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio				
Date			Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
Identified							
INVEST0004	To permit deficits to be eliminated over a	Increased employer deficit	Cllr David	1	2	08/09/2020	Paylow Summary: As detailed in Funding Strategy Statement
	recovery period rather than immediately,	recovery payments.	Thomas	4	2		Review Summary: As detailed in Funding Strategy Statement
29/01/2018	introduces the risk that action to restore solvency is insufficient bewtween		Chris Hurst			21/12/2020	Review Summary: As detailed in Funding Strategy Statement
	successive measurements.						
	Controls and Actions				Latest Contro	A Povious	Poviow Date

Detail	Investment Risk						
	discuss every such situation with the Pension Fund actuary, for each individual employer. It is the practice to discuss every such situation with the Pension Fund actuary, for each individual employer. Moreover deficit recovery periods are generally restricted to no more than 25 years, or 40 years in very exceptional circumstances.						
Risk Ref Date Identified	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
INVEST0005 25/01/2016	introduced by annual steps rather than immediately, introduces a risk that action to restore solvency is insufficient between successive measurements.	Increased employer contribution rates.	Cllr David Thomas Chris Hurst	6	4	08/09/2020 21/12/2020	Review Summary: Decisions taken in accordance with advice from Fund Actuary Review Summary: Decisions taken in accordance with advice from Fund Actuary
	Controls and Actions Each individual employer situation is discussed restricted to three years, or 6 yea Each individual employer situation is discussed restricted to three years, or 6 years, in very exce	with the Pension Fund actuary, with stepping		Control In Place	Latest Contro	l Reviews	Review Date
Risk Ref Date Identified	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
30/01/265 O	Pay and price inflation significantly more than anticipated. Controls and Actions Employers 'pay' for their own salary awards and pension liabilities Employers 'pay' for their own salary awards and pension liabilities. Particularly where bias towards	are reminded of the geared effect on salary -	linked	Action Completed	4 Latest Contro	08/09/2020 21/12/2020 Il Reviews	Review Summary: Review and discuss with Actuary at valuation Review Summary: Review and discuss with Actuary at valuation Review Date
Risk Ref Date Identified	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
INVEST0007 03/03/2016	Insolvency of an investment manager investing Pension Fund assets.	A reduction in the capital value of the Fund; a loss of liquidity as creditors agree on distribution of assets; the costs of legal representation; and, reputational damage.	Cllr David Thomas Chris Hurst	9	6	09/01/2023 08/09/2020	Review Summary: Considered by Investment Consultant and at each Committee meeting Review Summary: Ongoing
	controls and Actions diversification of investment managers, limits for Diversification of investment managers; adherer as set out in the LGPS investment regulations; rundertaken by the Fund's investment consultant Engagements No. 16 internal controls are monit investment consultants to ensure that custodian investment managers are invested in pooled fur investment managers are selected in the first plants.	r individual investments mandates nce to the limits for individual investment man regular meetings with investment managers t; Statement on Standards for Attestation tored on an annual basis; due diligence by as are used by each investment manager; equ ads; and, only well respected and researched		Control In Place	Latest Contro	I Reviews	Review Date

Detail	Investment Risk						
	Increased investment manager diversification may be further facilitated by pooling via the Wales Pool that is currently under de Increased investment manager diversification may be further facilitated by pooling via the Wales Pool that is currently under development. As agreed by P & I Committee on 9th February 2017, when entering into new contractual arrangements with investment managers, contract documentation is to be referred to the Fund's legal advisers for review and appropriate due diligence.						
Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio				
Date Identified			Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
INVEST0008	Pooling of Pension Fund assets with other	Investment of Fund Officer and	Cllr David	9	6	08/09/2020	Review Summary: Ongoing
30/03/2017	LGPS Pension Funds.	Committee time and other resource with unknown	<i>Thomas</i> Chris Hurst			21/12/2020	Review Summary: Ongoing
30/00/2017		outcomes; front loaded costs before potential savings are realised; potential loss of local accountabilities; and, the loss of the primacy of the Fund and its strategic needs.	Olino Hulot				
	Controls and Actions	chatogio nocac.			Latest Contro	ol Reviews	Review Date
Pa	 Due diligence on all pooling proposals; full trans participation of Pension Fund Due diligence on all pooling proposals; full trans participation of the Pension Fund in all pooling of 	sparency of all pool proposals and costs; fu		Control In Place			
ge 16	 Pooling vehicle to be structured so that each pa Pooling vehicle to be structured so that each pa the pool structure enables full strategic decision economies of scale (based on experience to da that will exceed initial costs. 	rticipating Fund has full representation in t s to be retained by each individual Fund; a	he pool; and.	Control In Place			
Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio				
Date Identified			Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
INVEST0009 01/10/2019	MIFID II ongoing compliance	Financial implications of not being treated as an institutional	<i>Cllr David</i> <i>Thomas</i> Chris Hurst	12	6	11/07/2022	Review Summary: Current process continues, but updated as required when new manager appointed or training needs identified.
01/10/2019		investor	Cillis Huist			05/07/2021	Review Summary: Regularly reviewed and updated on adoption of a new Investment Manager
	Controls and Actions				Latest Contro	ol Reviews	Review Date
	 Regular Review of MIFID Status Regular Review of MIFID Status 			Control In Place			
Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
Identified							
INVEST0010	Fall in the returns on Government bonds.	Increase to the value placed on	Cllr David		4	11/07/2022	Davious Cummons Dogularly manifered by Consultant for and the
		Fund liabilities.	Thomas	9	4	11/07/2022	Review Summary: Regularly monitored by Consultant for each meeting
01/01/2015			Chris Hurst			05/07/2021	Review Summary: Discussed with Investment Consultants as required
	Controls and Actions				Latest Contro	ol Reviews	Review Date

Detail	Investment Risk						
	 Allowing for a risk-based approach should limit the impact of short-term changes in returns on Government bonds Allowing for a risk-based approach should limit the impact of short-term changes in returns on Government bonds. Some investment in bonds also helps to mitigate this risk. Monitoring (quarterly) helps to give an early warning of significant changes. 			Control In Place			
Risk Ref	Risk Identified	Potential Consequence	Portfolio				
Date Identified			Owner	Inherent	Residual	Latest Risk Reviews	
INVEST0011	Increased risk on Fund Employers.	Potential Failure of Participating Employer or unsustainable Employer Contributions	<i>Unassigned</i> Jane Thomas	4	4	04/05/2022	Review Summary: Employer Risk Assessment to be conducting as part of valuation work in 2022-23
	Controls and Actions				Latest Contro	l Reviews	Review Date
	 Regular Review of Employer Covenants with Fund Actuary Work with the Fund Actuary to review employer covenants on a regular basis. being conducted as part of the 2022 Valuation Work 			Control In Place			

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