

Croydon Council

REPORT TO:	PENSION COMMITTEE 8 March 2016
AGENDA ITEM:	8
SUBJECT:	2016 - 2017 Pension Committee Forward Plan
LEAD OFFICER:	Richard Simpson, Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer)
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Simon Hall Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: Sound Financial Management: Ensuring that the pension fund is being given appropriate guidance and direction through the governance of the Pension Committee.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: There are no direct financial consequences to this report.	
FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: N/A	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1. That the Committee consider, and subject to any changes it considers necessary, agree adoption of the 2016/2017 Pension Committee Forward Plan.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 It is recommended best practice for the Pension Committee (the Committee) to regularly set a forward plan in advance of the beginning of the year to which it relates. This report seeks approval of the proposed 2016/2017 forward plan which forms a business plan for the Committee.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The forward plan below sets out an agenda for each quarterly meeting to be held in 2016/2017; however, further items may be added as required by senior officers in consultation with the Chair. There may be a need to add items in response to changing circumstances, such as any issues thrown up by the government's decision to require funds to pool assets, changes to the investment regulations or if there are further global market events requiring actions from the Committee. There will be occasions when the Committee will want to visit fund managers to discuss performance issues or other matters of concern: this will be driven by issues flagged up by the quarterly performance reporting. The Committee has committed to a programme of training and in part, this can be delivered by sessions following on from the business part of the meeting. The content of training will be informed by the direction of future legislation; the outcome of the review of the investment strategy and the choice of investment vehicles.
- 3.2 With the advent of the Local Pensions Board, some issues that previously were considered by the Committee could be addressed by that body. This might include matters relating to stock ownership, such as reporting and engagement on ESG issues, assessment of the performance of professional advisors, and consideration of Myners principles.
- 3.3 Matters relating to admission agreements, schools converting to academies and other scheme employers will be reported on an ad hoc basis. The Committee undertakes a great deal of work outside of the regular, scheduled meetings. This activity includes visits to the fund managers who are responsible for investing the assets of the Pension Fund; interviewing potential new managers to better understand their approach to investment; and a number of structured training events, conferences and seminars.

3.4 The Pension Committee 2016-2017 Business Plan

June 2016 Meeting (Reporting on the March quarter performance):

- Progress Report (quarterly monitoring).
- Draft Statement of Accounts.
- Annual review of policies and discretions.
- Consideration of pooling proposal (Officers from the London CIV to be invited).
- Benchmarking and performance measurement for pooling.
- Training session on Triennial valuation, contribution rates and related matters.
- Self-assessment by Committee on achieving goals of training programme for the year.

September 2016 Meeting (Reporting on the June quarter performance):

- Progress Report (quarterly monitoring).
- Draft Annual Report - including review of SIP and FSS or successor statements, subject to consultation.
- External Auditors Report.

- Whole Fund actuarial valuation results, and approach to setting individual employer contribution rates approved in principle.
- Risk Register.
- Local Pension Board Annual Report.

November 2016 Meeting (Reporting on the September quarter performance):

- Progress Report (quarterly monitoring).
- Review of provision of professional services by framework agreements.
- Communication of draft employer funding positions and contribution rates from Scheme Actuary.
- Other Business.

March 2017 Meeting (Reporting on the December quarter performance):

- Progress Report (quarterly monitoring).
- Final Funding Strategy Statement, actuarial valuation results and contribution rates approved by Committee.
- Risk Register.
- 2017/2018 Pensions Committee Forward Plan.
- Update on the work of the Local Pension Board.

3.5 This forward plan forms the business plan for the Committee. The Committee are asked to consider any changes necessary to the forward plan and subject to these, agree its adoption.

4 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The forward plan for the Committee will ensure effective management of the assets of the Pension Fund.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Other than the considerations referred to above, there are no customer Focus, Equalities, Environment and Design, Crime and Disorder or Human Rights considerations arising from this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL

6.1 The Council Solicitor comments that there are no direct legal considerations arising from this report.

(Approved by: Gabriel MacGregor, Head of Corporate Law on behalf of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer)

CONTACT OFFICER:

Nigel Cook, Head of Pensions Investment and Treasury,
Resources Directorate, ext. 62552.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.