

# Croydon Council

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| <b>REPORT TO:</b>    | <b>Pension Committee</b><br><b>20 June 2023</b>               |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>      | <b>Pension Administration Strategy</b>                        |
| <b>LEAD OFFICER:</b> | <b>Matthew Hallett – Acting Head of Pensions and Treasury</b> |

## 1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Committee are asked to review and agree the draft Pension Administration Strategy Statement attached as Appendix A.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report updates the Pension Administration Strategy Statement for consideration by the Committee.

## 3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Under Regulation 59 of The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013:

(1) An administering authority may prepare a written statement of the authority's policies in relation to such of the matters mentioned in paragraph (2) as it considers appropriate.

(2) The matters are—

(a) procedures for liaison and communication with Scheme employers in relation to which it is the administering authority;

(b) the establishment of levels of performance which the administering authority and its Scheme employers are expected to achieve in carrying out their Scheme functions by—

(i) the setting of performance targets,

(ii) the making of agreements about levels of performance and associated matters, or

(iii) such other means as the administering authority considers appropriate;

(c) procedures which aim to secure that the administering authority and its Scheme employers comply with statutory requirements in respect of those functions and with any agreement about levels of performance;

(d) procedures for improving the communication by the administering authority and its Scheme employers to each other of information relating to those functions;

(e) the circumstances in which the administering authority may consider giving written notice to any of its Scheme employers under regulation 70 (additional costs arising from Scheme employer's level of performance) on account of that employer's unsatisfactory performance in carrying out its Scheme functions when measured against levels of performance established under sub-paragraph (b);

(f) the publication by the administering authority of annual reports dealing with—

(i) the extent to which that authority and its Scheme employers have achieved the levels of performance established under sub-paragraph (b), and

(ii) such other matters arising from its pension administration strategy as it considers appropriate; and

(g) such other matters as appear to the administering authority after consulting its Scheme employers and such other persons as it considers appropriate, to be suitable for inclusion in that strategy.

3.2 The Fund's current Administration Strategy Statement was agreed by the Committee on 20 June 2017. The revised draft incorporates a number of drafting, formatting, regulatory and procedural changes that have become necessary. The 2017 version of the document is attached as Appendix B for information purposes.

3.3 The Committee are asked to review and agree the updated draft attached as Appendix A.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 Once agreed by Committee the Scheme employers will be consulted on the content of the Policy and their comments invited. The Consultation period will

run to 31 July 2023 and the results and final version of the Policy will be reported at the 19 September 2023 Committee meeting for agreement and sign off.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no significant direct financial implications arising from this report which updates the Administration Strategy Statement for consultation with scheme employers.

**Approved by:** Allister Bannin on behalf of Jane West, Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)

## **6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1. Burges Salmon LLP (a legal advisor appointed to the Pension Fund) comments that there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report. The Committee should note that the Committee (and Scheme employers) must have regard to the pension administration strategy when carrying out their functions under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

## **7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 7.1 There are no direct workforce implications arising from the recommendations within this report. If any should arise these will be managed under the Council's policies and procedures.

**Approved by:** Gillian Bevan, Head of HR, Resources and Assistant Chief Executives on behalf of the Chief People Officer

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Equality Act 2010. In summary, the Council must in the exercise of all its functions, "have due regard to" the need to comply with the three aims of the general equality duty. These are to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

8.2 Having due regard means to consider the three aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision-making. This means that decision makers must be able to evidence that they have taken into account any impact of the proposals under consideration on people who share the protected characteristics before decisions are taken.

**Approved by:** John Mukungunugwa, Interim Senior Equalities Officer on behalf of Denise McCausland Equality Programme Manager. Date: 09/06/2023

## **9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None.

**Approved by:** Allister Bannin on behalf of Jane West, Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

Matthew Hallett – Acting Head of Pensions and Treasury.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

None.

### **APPENDIX:**

Appendix A: Administration Strategy Statement

Appendix B : 2017 version Admin Strategy Statement