

Committee:

**Merton Pension Fund Advisory Panel
2021**

Date: 24 June

**Merton Pension Board
2021**

Date: 28 June

Wards: All

Subject: Merton Pension Fund Training Policy

Lead officer: Caroline Holland - Director of Corporate Services

Lead member: Councillor.Tobin Byers

Contact officer: Roger Kershaw- Assistant Director of Resources

Recommendations:

Members are asked to approve the attached Merton Pension Fund's Training Policy (Appendix 1) and to note that Officers will develop a training plan for 2021/22.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report presents the Merton Pension Fund's Training Policy. Section 248A of the Pensions Act 2004, as amended by the Public Services Pensions Act 2013, requires that trustees of occupational pension Schemes should be trained and have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions, the role of trustees, the principles of scheme funding and investment and the management and administration of pension scheme benefits.
- 1.2 To facilitate the ability to make informed Pension decisions for the benefit of all stakeholders, the Pension Fund Advisory Panel (PFAP); the Pension Board (PB) and Officers will, in performing Pension responsibilities be expected to undertake regular training to ensure they have sufficient knowledge of the LGPS, pension benefits and investment issues.
- 1.3 Accordingly, the Pensions Advisory Panel has agreed to adopt the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Knowledge and Skills Framework (CIPFA KSF)

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. A Training Policy has been developed for the London Borough of Merton in its role as the Administering Authority of the Merton LGPS Pension Fund. The policy details the training strategy for members of the PFAP, PB and senior officers responsible for the management of the Fund.
- 2.2. The Training Policy is established to aid the PFAP, PB members and officers in performing and developing personally in their individual roles,

with the ultimate aim of ensuring that Merton Pension Fund is managed by individuals who have the appropriate levels of knowledge and skills.

- 2.3 The Pension Fund is managed and its services delivered by people who have the appropriate knowledge and expertise, and that this knowledge and expertise is maintained within the continually changing LGPS and wider pensions landscape.
- 2.4 Those persons responsible for governing the Fund have sufficient expertise to be able to evaluate and challenge the advice they receive, ensure their decisions are robust and well based, and manage any potential conflicts of interest.
- 2.5 The implementation of MiFIDII reclassifies local and public authorities as retail investors from 3rd January 2018. The authority elected for a return to professional status in order to ensure it could access the full range of vehicles and managers to meet the needs of the investment strategy.
- 2.6 To maintain the professional status with investment managers and to take advantage of new investment options the Fund has a responsibility to ensure that the PFAP members and the officers have the relevant knowledge and they receive regular training to make effective investment decisions.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. N/A

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

Discussions of the training needed at officer level and other councils. Looking at option to buy a training programme collectively with few other boroughs. This will enable to panel, Board and the officers to have the relevant training and will be able to complete the training at their own time and convenience.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. Throughout the year

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. All training costs will be met directly by the Pension Fund.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Not applicable

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Not applicable

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. Not applicable

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Not applicable

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Training policy

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. LGPS and CIPFA training guidance.

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