

Pension Advisory Board

4 September 2019

Business Plan Update

Report by the Chairman of the Pension Advisory Board

Executive Summary

The Board approved its Business Plan for 2019/20 and 2020/21 at its meeting on 22 May 2019. This report provides an update on progress against the Plan and provides an opportunity for the Board to consider any changes to the risk profiles or work plan. A copy of the update report to the Pensions Panel is also included.

Recommendation

That the updates to the Business Plans of the Board and the Panel are noted.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Board agreed its Business Plan on 22 May which was approved by the Governance Committee on 24 June. The Board agreed to review progress on the Plan at each meeting and update the Plan where necessary.

2. Business Plan update

- 2.1 A brief review of progress in delivering key tasks is set out in Appendix A and includes an 'aide memoire' column as a reminder of action to be taken. For ease of reference, Appendix B is the work plan agreed for 2019-20.
- 2.2 The Board is making good progress on core activities but more work is needed on administration performance data, communications, pool governance arrangements and training needs. The intention to review MHCLG guidance on pooling and a revised Investment Strategy Statement in September is deferred awaiting action from MHCLG.
- 2.3 The report by Hymans Robertson on Good Governance was published at the end of July and is included as a background paper for ease of reference. [See also Agenda Item 9 "Governance Reviews and Surveys".] The expectation is that the governance framework will be subject to change but that a clearer indication of this will not be available until the calendar year end. Inevitably this will impact on the Business Plan at some point over the next six months.

3. Risks

- 3.1 A new potential risk has been identified in relation to SAB and tPR surveys where there is a danger of those bodies misinterpreting 'crude' responses to survey questions. The outcome of the Good Governance review may offer the opportunity to clarify roles and responsibilities, and also the methods of monitoring and accountability.

4. Training

- 4.1 The agreed Training Strategy is being followed and training activity recorded on the log for regular review. All members have completed the tPR toolkit but there is no further news as to when this will be revised.
- 4.2 Both the Scheme Advisory Board and the Pensions Regulator have indicated that regulations and guidance are under review, and will lead to a need to update and review requirements for knowledge and understanding.

5. Pensions Panel Business Plan

- 5.1 Given the link now established between the Board's and the Panel's Business Plans a copy of the Update Report for the Panel's Plan is attached as Appendix C.
- 5.2 The Board may find the update on priorities a useful summary of how the Panel's work is progressing and the issues covered. They may also wish to consider whether the Board's update report should be submitted to the Panel for noting in order to extend the sharing of information between the Board and the Panel.

6. Equality Impact Review

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Review is not required as there are no relevant decisions to be taken.

Peter Scales

Chairman of the Pension Advisory Board

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Appendices

Appendix A - Update on progress on Business Plan

Appendix B - PAB Work Plan 2019/20

Appendix C - Update report on Pensions Panel Business Plan

Appendix D - Training Log

Background papers

[Hymans Robertson's report on good governance in the LGPS July 2019](#)