

Pension Advisory Board

20 November 2019

Business Plan Update

Report by the Chairman of the Pension Advisory Board

Executive Summary

The Board has approved a Business Plan for 2019/20 and 2020/21. 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.

Recommendations

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 annotated to show changes in the plan.
- 2.2 The Board is making good progress on core activities but some of the planned special activities and reviews will need to be deferred as follows:
- The MHCLG has not yet issued revised guidance on pooling and although this is expected this autumn, it will not be possible for the Board to consider the implications and a revised Investment Strategy Statement before its meeting in February.
 - The Surveys from SAB and tPR have not yet been received.
 - The internal audit of pensions administration is still in progress and will not be available to the Board before February.
 - Due to the slippage in these items, the review of other pension boards will need to be moved forward to 2020/21
 - The planned review of tPR e-training requirements is awaiting progress on arranging a presentation to the Board.
- 2.3 As reported elsewhere on the agenda, revised guidance on the governance framework following the report by Hymans Robertson on Good Governance is expected to be issued for consultation by December and will likely form a new activity for the February meeting.

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 delay in their issue poses a risk that the Board may not have adequate time to consider its response.

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 The SAB has indicated that there will be new requirements for knowledge and understanding based on the good governance review. In addition, CIPFA has announced a joint initiative with AON Consulting to issue revised guidance. These will need to be reviewed when available.

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**.

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

Background papers

None