



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2023

Report of the Director of Finance and ICT

Derbyshire Pension Fund Communications Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for Derbyshire Pension Fund's (the Fund) draft revised Communications Policy (the Policy) attached as Appendix 2.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 Regulation 61 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 requires each Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administering authority to produce and publish a policy statement describing how it communicates with its stakeholders.
- 2.2 The Pensions and Investments Committee (the Committee) previously reviewed the Fund's Communications Policy at its meeting on 28 April 2021.

A detailed review of the Fund's approach to communicating with scheme members, employers and other stakeholders, and a summary of the Fund's strategy with regard to its communications for the three-year period from 2024 to 2027, is reflected in the draft revised Communications Policy.

- 2.3 The Policy sets out how the Fund engages with scheme members and employers in respect of making important information about the LGPS readily available, in easy to understand language, supporting one of the Pension Fund's five core objectives:

- to deliver clear, timely and relevant communication to all stakeholders.

2.4 The Policy reflects developments and improvements achieved over the last two years:

- the launch of the My Pension Online platform
- continued progress with employers' submissions of secure monthly data through the i-Connect service
- enhancements in the accessibility of digital content

2.5 The developments and improvements planned for the period 2024 to 2027 cover the following:

- Continuing development of the My Pension Online platform to improve functionality for the member experience
- Encouraging increased member engagement and understanding of the LGPS, including the development of a member engagement forum
- Continuing to improve methods of communication with the aim of broadening inclusion to ensure that all stakeholders are able to access and engage with the Fund's services
- Increasing consistency of communications , ensuring that content is accurate, easy to understand and helpful to members and employers
- Improving engagement with all participating employers

2.6 It is intended that progress in meeting the communications-related developments included in the three-year strategy, will be reviewed annually, and reported in the Half-Year Pension Administration Performance Report.

In the event of the Policy requiring significant amendments as a result of changes to regulations or procedures, or to reflect technological or best practice developments, a revised version will be prepared for consideration by the Committee.

A full review of the Policy and the Fund's strategy for the development of its communications will be undertaken at least every three years.

2.7 Subject to the Committee's approval, the Policy will be published on the Fund's website in a suitable format in consideration of its accessibility to all of the Fund's stakeholders.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

4. Background Papers

- 4.1 The current version of the Communications Policy is held on the Fund's website

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
5.2 Appendix 2 – Draft revised Communications Policy

6. Recommendation(s)

- 6.1 That Committee:
a) approves the draft revised Communications Policy attached at as Appendix 2.

7. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 7.1 The Committee is responsible for approving the Fund's statements, strategies and policies.

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Appendix 1

Implications

Financial

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 Under Regulation 61 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013, administering authorities of LGPS funds are required to publish a written statement setting out their policy concerning communications with scheme members, employers and other stakeholders.

Human Resources

3.1 None

Information Technology

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 None

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None