

# Pensions Committee

10am, Monday, 24 June 2013

## Committee and Consultative Panel Training

Item number	5.11
Report number	
Wards	All

### Links

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Coalition pledges

Council outcomes [CO26](#)

Single Outcome Agreement

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# Executive summary

## Committee and Consultative Panel Training

### Summary

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This report sets out a brief overview of any material points of note in relation to the membership of the Pensions Committee and the Consultative Panel and the position regarding the training of the relevant representatives.

#### Consultative Panel

There are currently three vacancies, two employers and one member vacancy. The Scottish Government has not yet appointed a replacement to represent the Scottish Homes Pension Fund following the retirement of the previous representative although discussions are still on going. The two other vacancies remain open for applications and it should be noted that there is currently no employer representative from the councils. We will re-advertise these vacancies on our website, employer bulletin and the June 2013 employer finance briefing.

#### Training Update

Lothian Pension Fund's training policy sets out a framework of knowledge expected by members of the Pensions Committee and Consultative Panel to ensure that they have the appropriate level of knowledge to carry out their duties. The policy includes a minimum target for Committee members of attending at least three days training per year.

Appendix 1 shows the breakdown of training attended from 1 April 2012 to 30 April 2013. The total training hours for the Committee is 184.5 hours. Three new Committee members were appointed following the Local Government Election in May 2012 and these members concentrated on induction training for the first quarter with a combined total of 27 hours pensions training in this area.

Not all Committee members have met the minimum requirement for training during the reporting period (although certain members have not been on the Committee for the whole of that period) and we are looking to address this over the coming year by continuing to identify external and internal opportunities for relevant training.

In addition, it should be noted that the members of the Consultative Panel are due to attend at least one training session per year.

Members are also encouraged to use the Pension Regulator online training package to gain wider knowledge. In particular, the Pension Regulator is due to introduce a specific toolkit in relation to the governance of local government pension schemes which will be of particular relevance to Committee and Panel members.

The Pensions Committee should also note the Investment and Pension division's objective of being a "leader" in terms of good governance and the fact that the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 will have the effect of increasing the Pension Regulator's scrutiny and powers over local authority pension schemes and their committees.

## **Recommendations**

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The Pensions Committee should note the attendance record in the context of the training policy minimum for Committee members of three days training per year and consider what would further assist the representatives in terms of meeting/exceeding this minimum objective in the future.

## **Measures of success**

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Success will, among other things, be measured against the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills framework which outlines the appropriate knowledge members of the Committee and Consultative Panel members require to be able to discharge their duties. This will follow from improved attendance at external and internal events and continuing to improve the quality of event selection and the internally delivered training.

## **Financial impact**

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The cost of training is included in the approved budget for 2013/14 and we do not anticipate any additional financial implications in this regard.

There are no other direct financial implications, except that Committee training is an integral part of the pension fund's governance and so there is an indirect financial benefit to be gained through improved training/attendance and strengthening the risk management of the fund.

## **Equalities impact**

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None.

## **Sustainability impact**

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None.

## **Consultation and engagement**

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The Consultative Panel for the Lothian Pension Funds, comprising employer and member representatives, is integral to the governance of the Funds.

## **Background reading / external references**

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Please see the attached Training Record and schedule of future events.

## Links

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**Coalition pledges**

**Council outcomes** CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnerships to improve services and deliver agreed objectives.

**Single Outcome Agreement**

**Appendices** Appendix 1 – Training Log

**Committee and Consultative Panel Members' Training Record  
From 1 April 2012 - 30 April 2013**

Event:	Employer Finance Briefing	New member induction	Ctte pre meeting preparation	Invest training (Cllrs only)	Consult Panel invest training	Ctte Prep	Committee Pre meeting preparation	Scottish LA Induction training	LAPFF annual conf	LPF Annual seminar	Consultative Panel induction	Committee Pre meeting preparation	Internal audit training	NAPF Investment conf	Committee Pre meeting preparation	Risk & Governance Training	Any additional training /reading /meetings	Total (Hours)
Date	20.6.12	21.6.12	27.6.12	12.9.12	24.9.12	3.10.12	03.10.2012	24.10.12	29/30.11.12	6.12.12	13.12.2012	18.12.2012	01.01.2013	6 - 8.3.13	13.3.13	22/04/13		

**Committee**

Maureen Child	2	3	1	2		1	1	3		1		1		5	1	3.5	2	26.5
Bill Cook	1.5	3	1	3		1	1					1			1	3.5		16.0
Jim Orr		3	1	3		1	1	6				1	2	7	1	3.5	4	33.5
Alasdair Rankin		3	1	3				3		0.5		1		2.5		1.5		15.5
Cameron Rose			1	3		1	1		8	1		1	2	15	1	3.5	10	47.5
Darren May (appointed 11/ 2012)			1			1	1	6				1			1	3.5		14.5
Allison Cosgrove (appointed 11/ 2012)			1		2	1	1	6	10			1		2	1		6	31.0

Total training hours

184.5

**Lothian Pension Funds' Consultative Panel**

**Employer Representatives**

Eric Adair					2	1	1								1	3.5		8.5
Guy Hughes ( appointed 12/2012)											1	1						2.0
Alan Williamson					2					2								4.0

**Member Representatives**

Charlie Boyd	3		1					6							1	3.5		14.5
Owen Murdoch																		0.0
Eric MacLennan			1		2	1	1	6				1			1	3.5	6	22.5
John Rodgers (appointed 12/2012)											1				1	3.5		5.5

Total Panel training hours

57.0