

Pensions Committee

10am, Monday, 24 June 2013

Independent Professional Observer Objectives

Item number	5.12
Report number	
Wards	All

Links

Coalition pledges

Council outcomes [CO26](#)

Single Outcome Agreement

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Executive summary

Independent Professional Observer Objectives

Summary

Following a series of one-to-one meetings with the members of the Pensions Committee, Sarah Smart, the Independent Professional Observer to the Pensions Committee, has circulated draft objectives for her role (attached as Appendix 1). These objectives are therefore being tabled for consideration and approval by the Pensions Committee.

We would also note that, as part of her role, Sarah is undertaking an exercise to facilitate a self-assessment by the individual members of the Pensions Committee of its own governance and procedures. The feedback from this assessment will be analysed by the officers, in conjunction with Sarah, with a view to implementing further improvements in the governance of the Pensions Committee and the training of its members.

Recommendations

That the objectives for the role of Independent Professional Observer be considered and approved, subject to any points that the Pensions Committee (under advice from the officers) may wish to address.

Measures of success

To maximise the effectiveness of the role of the Independent Professional Observer and to enable the Pension Committee to measure this effectiveness on an ongoing basis.

Financial impact

No direct financial impact.

Equalities impact

None.

Sustainability impact

None.

Consultation and engagement

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

None.

Links

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 – Independent Professional Observer Objectives 2013-2014

LOTHIAN PENSION FUND
INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL OBSERVER OBJECTIVES: 2013 – 2014

1. Objective: To improve the overall effective stewardship of the Lothian Pension Funds

Expectation:

- To demonstrate up to date pensions and investment knowledge in a broad range of areas
- To work with the Executive team to improve the accessibility of complex issues for Committee members
- To contribute to and promote effective discussions at Committee meetings
- To assist with training provided to Committee members
- To provide input of how issues are dealt with in other LGPS and private sector schemes

Measurement:

- Committee members feeling more confident in raising issues at meetings, measured by Committee self-assessment
- Improved levels of discussion at meetings
- Overall improvements in Committee self-assessment scores
- Feedback from the Executive team
- Feedback from Convenor of the Pensions Committee

2. Objective: To contribute to improvements in the risk management processes for the Lothian Pension Funds

Expectation:

- To contribute actively to discussions at Audit Sub-Committee meetings
- To work with the Executive team to develop risk reporting at Audit Sub-Committee and Pensions Committee levels

Measurement:

- Greater evidence of discussion of risk issues in Committee meetings (through Committee minutes)
- Improvements in relevant scores in Committee self-assessments
- Feedback from Executive team
- Feedback from Convenor of Audit Sub-Committee

3. Objective: To help to develop the Committee stewardship in the area of investments¹

Expectation:

- To contribute to investment training to Committee members
- To help in the development of the reporting of the Investment area to the Pensions Committee
- To encourage discussions on investment areas at Pensions Committee meetings

Measurement:

- Greater evidence of discussion of investment issues in Committee meetings
- Improvements in relevant scores in Committee self-assessments
- Feedback from Executive team

4. Objective: To interact in a positive way with the Pensions Committee and the Executive team

Expectation:

- To facilitate rather than dominate Committee discussions
- To work with the Executive team in a supportive way, bearing in mind the need to introduce change in a gradual fashion
- To promote good relationships with all members of the Pensions Committee, Consultative Panel and Executive team

Measurement:

- Feedback from all parties

¹ It is agreed that this objective will be met over a longer timeframe, not all in the first year