

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017-2018

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

26TH MARCH 2018

**REPORT OF: THE GROUP DIRECTOR,
CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE
SERVICES**

	AGENDA ITEM NO.7
PENSION FUND RISK REGISTER	

Author – Barrie Davies, Director of Financial Services (01443) 680559

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide the committee with details of the arrangements in place to manage risk within the Pension Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee :

2.1.1 Note the arrangements in place for the management of risk within the fund; and

2.1.2 Review the Risk Register and consider whether they wish to receive further detail on any issues.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The terms of reference of the Pension Fund Committee sets out its responsibilities with regard to risk management, namely :

- *To provide independent assurance to members of the Fund of the adequacy of the risk management and associated control environment, responsible for the Fund's financial and non-financial performance.*

3.2 The Group Director Corporate and Frontline Services (in their capacity as S151 officer) supported by the Investment and Administration Advisory Panel with appropriate officer, independent advisor and professional support, has delegated responsibility for all day to day operational matters, which includes ensuring that robust risk management arrangements are in place.

4.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 With regard to Risk Management, the fund maintains a risk register which is reviewed and updated, as necessary and appropriate, on a quarterly basis.
- 4.2 The risk register is reviewed in detail and operationally by the Pension Fund Working Group, where recommended updates are made to reflect changes in risks. This is then presented to the quarterly meetings of the Investment and Administration Advisory Panel for further review, challenge and agreement.
- 4.3 Following the agreement of the updated register, it is published on the Fund Website.
- 4.4 The register is also reviewed by the Pension Board, as part of their role in supporting the Fund's overall governance arrangements.
- 4.5 The risk register, dated March 2018, is attached for review and consideration by the committee.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report sets out, for the Committee, the arrangements in place for the management of risk by the Pension Fund.

Summary of Pension Fund Risks

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to assess the risk associated with the RCT Pension Fund and to outline the control measures in place.

Key to scoring

Likelihood Assessment Matrix:

Factor	Score	Indicators
Almost certain	5	99% likely to happen or has happened on a regular basis over the last 12 months
Very likely	4	75% likely to happen or has happened at least once or twice in the last 12 months
Likely	3	50% likely to happen or has happened once or twice in the last 24 months
Unlikely	2	20% likely to happen or has happened once or twice in the last 5 years
Highly unlikely	1	5% likely to happen or hasn't happened within the last 5 years

Impact Assessment Matrix:

Risk	Score
Major	5
High	4
Moderate	3
Minor	2
Trivial	1

Ascertainment Of Risk Level According To Levels Of Impact And Likelihood:

Likelihood	5						
	4			1			1
	3			1	1		
	2	1	1	2	10	1	
	1		3	3	6	3	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Impact					

1	High Risk
14	Medium Risk
19	Low Risk

Overarching Fund Objective – to ensure Fund assets are sufficient to meet Fund liabilities in the short, medium and long term

Risk Category	Risk Description	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	RATING		Control Measure	Comments on changes in risk rating March 2018
Funding	Long term investment strategy unable to meet the objective of funding liabilities.	5	2	10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of deficit, reporting on the funding levels produced by the actuaries. Monitoring of the adopted asset / liability model. 	
	Sub-optimal asset allocation throughout the portfolio.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The investment strategy is reviewed and adopted by the Pension Fund Committee . The Committee (with advice from the Advisory Panel) should regularly review the asset allocation strategy. The review should cover both the fund strategy and the asset allocation. 	On completion of the recent Valuation cycle and in preparation for the All Wales Pool arrangements, it is considered appropriate to undertake an updated Asset Allocation Study. Initiated 6 th Nov 2017. The review is on going.
	Actuarial assumptions are not met. e.g. discount rate, life expectancy assumptions.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree and set prudent assumptions in conjunction with the appointed Fund Actuary, based on past trends, forecasts, longevity modelling. Adhere to triennial valuations. Monitor performance against assumptions, consider Interim Valuations where necessary. Receive regular Actuarial Funding updates. 	
	Increases in Employer contributions.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in LGPS Scheme design consultation. Engage with Employers during and between Valuation cycles, particularly during times of organisational change e.g. downsizing, outsourcing. Ensure adequate securities / guarantees are in place where possible and that consequential risk is fully communicated to relevant parties. 	
	Detrimental changes to the maturity of fund membership. As the scheme matures the ratio of pensioner / deferred pensioner to active employees increases.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor carefully through the valuation cycle. Ensure the investment strategy reflects current and forecast Fund maturity. Actively participate in pension consultation, giving due consideration to any proposals that may have a disproportional impact on scheme 'opt out' rates. [current considerations around 'Exit' caps] 	

Investments	Financial Market suppressed by economic climate, national / global austerity measures and Brexit.	3	4	12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term funding plan with a diverse range of asset classes and Fund Manager styles. Panel clearly understand the impact of market conditions on asset classes and fund manager performance. Panel monitor and scrutinise performance, market conditions and forecasts. 	
	Custody arrangements may not be sufficient to safeguard pension fund assets.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An agreement is in place between the custodian and Pension Fund. Monthly reconciliations are carried out to check external custodian records. Funds held in the name of the Pension Fund, not the Fund Manager nor the Custodian. 	
	Investment returns fail to meet agreed targets.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring of investment returns. Advisory Panel review and challenge of fund manager performance against their benchmarks and targets. Use advisors to support the monitoring and challenge of fund managers. Where performance issues arise, put more targeted review and challenge arrangements in place. 	
	Adverse impact of the transition of the Pension Fund's assets into the Wales Pension Partnership pooling	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective governance arrangement of the Joint Governance Committee and Officer Working Group Key role undertaken by the Joint Governance Committee at transition process Ensure operator establishes a tax efficient UK collective investment vehicle 	Updated to ensure the ACS is tax efficient
	Investments are not carried out by the fund manager in accordance with instructions given by the Pension Fund.	3	2	6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment assets and transactions are monitored in-house via the Euraplan Shareholder II system. Investment management fees are monitored on a quarterly basis. 	
	Pension fund investments may not be accurately valued.	4	1	4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investments are valued using correct prices obtained by fund managers from independent third party agencies. 	
	Fund managers may not have the appropriate control framework in place to protect pension fund assets.	4	1	4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreements are in place between fund managers and the Pension Fund. Portfolios are managed in accordance with the investment objectives. Monthly reconciliations are carried out to check portfolios against administering authority records. Third parties provide the Pension Fund with an annual internal control report, which provides assurance. FCA regulated. 	

	Fund manager mandate restrictions and benchmarks constrain returns.	3	1	3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain advice from advisors. • Obtain advice from performance measurement company. 	
Governance	Introduction of new pooling arrangements by central government	5	4	20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Governance Committee and Officer Working Group has been formally constituted. • Wales Pension Partnership's CIV proposal already well developed. • Passive manager for Wales Pension Partnership has been appointed. • Participation on consultation papers. 	
	Failure to comply with LGPS Governance Regulation / Pension Regulator Code of Practice.	5	1	5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund Governance Compliance Statement is reviewed and published annually. • The Fund's 'Pension Board' became effective from 01st April 2015. • The Fund has a breaches policy. • Review the Investment Strategy Statement in accordance with DCLG guidance by 1st April 2017 • Benchmark against regulator tool kit on code of practice • Submit Annual Pension Scheme Regulator Return on time 	
	Members, officers and advisors do not have the right knowledge or skills.	4	1	4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pension Fund has adopted the CIPFA knowledge and skills framework. This ensures that over time the right knowledge and skills are available for decision making. • The Pension Fund subscribes to relevant professional bodies, e.g. LAPFF. 	
	Loss of reputation.	2	2	4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fund holds Annual General Meetings, Communication Forums, seminars and training. • The Fund has a dynamic website responding to stakeholder requirements. • Knowledgeable and professional staff. • Meetings are held regularly with the Fund's employer authorities. • Benefit statements are sent out annually to members by 31st August . • Monitoring of Fund Manager voting decisions. • Annual reports are produced by 1st December 	
	Conflicts of Interest arise.	3	1	3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declarations to be made by Advisory Panel Members, Board Members and Committee Members. • Director of Legal Services maintains a Register of Interests. • Fund Governance Policy. • Employer / Member Engagement – Communication Policy. • Transparency – published audited accounts, Valuation, Annual Report, etc. 	

	Failure to comply with the Myners Statement of Investment Principles.	2	1	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Statement is reviewed annually by the Advisory Panel and approved by the Pension Committee. 	
Operational	Loss of key staff / expertise.	4	3	12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job descriptions and person specifications. Dynamic training program. Workforce planning arrangements in place. 	
	Failure to meet Service Standards.	3	3	9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pension Fund Administration Strategy. Workforce planning, realign to meet one off demands, skills and training review. Appropriate systems and technology. 	
	Failure to implement scheme changes.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updates are received, reviewed and acted upon in a timely manner. Ensure software is adapted appropriately. Membership of relevant pensions professional bodies. 	
	Compliance with data quality regulation and best practice.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Improvement Plan in place Good relationships / communication with Employers. Ensure timely notification by Fund Employers of new starters, changes and leavers. Issue annual benefit statements to scheme members for review. 	
	Failure to complete GMP Reconciliation by December 2018.	4	2	8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation underway Plan implemented Resource requirements continually assessed 	
	Admitted bodies go into administration.	3	2	6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer covenants or bonds. Regular review of covenants. 	
	Failure to hold and share personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (effective 28 th May 2018).	5	1	5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administering Authority Information Management Security policies. All Scheme Member correspondence securely imaged. Appropriate Data Protection Registration. Data Sharing agreements in placeData review underway prior to effective date Mandatory training undertaken by all staff Awareness sessions held with the Fund's Governance groups 	
	Failure to pay pensioners on time.	5	1	5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payroll Timetables maintained. Business Continuity Plan. 	

	Qualification of accounts.	4	1	4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Information reconciled on a timely basis. Accounts are prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations, guidance and Codes of Practice. Regular dialogue with external auditors. 	
	Operational disaster (fire / flood, etc)	4	1	4		Business continuity procedures are in place	
	Compliance with Fund 'Dispute' Regulation.	3	1	3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal Dispute Procedure in place. 	
	Failure by employers to pay contributions into the Fund on time and in accordance with the 2016 'Rates and Adjustments Certificate'.	2	1	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of monthly receipts to remittances, with reference to the 2016 'Rates and Adjustment Certificate' Report any breaches to Regulator in accordance with the Fund's 'Breach Policy' 	
	Fraud.	2	1	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strict internal control mechanisms, segregation of duties, etc. Internal and External Audit Review. National Fraud Inspectorate participation. 	
Regulatory	Failure to comply with LGPS regulations and any other new regulations.	4	1	4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are sufficient fully trained staff. Regular updates are received and acted upon. Membership of relevant pensions professional bodies. Welsh Pension Officer Group participation Welsh Pension Fund Treasurers Group participation. Compliance with MiFID II Submit Annual Pension Scheme Regulator Return on time 	
	Excessive charges by suppliers	1	2	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular budget monitoring Periodic review of suppliers 	