

# Appendix 3

## London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund Training and Development Policy

The London Borough of Enfield is the Administering Authority of the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund and administers the Local Government Pension Scheme on behalf of participating employers

## **Introduction**

This is the Training & Development Policy of the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is managed and administered by Enfield Council. The Policy details the training strategy for members of the Pension Policy & Investment Committee and Pension Board, and senior officers responsible for the management of the Fund.

This Training & Development Policy is established to assist Pension Policy & Investment Committee and Pensions Board members and senior officers in developing their knowledge and capabilities in their individual roles, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund is managed by individuals who have the appropriate levels of knowledge and skills.

Enfield Council has delegated responsibility for the implementation of this Training & Development Policy to the Executive Director of Resources.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Enfield Council recognises the significance of its role as Administering Authority to the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund on behalf of its stakeholders which include:

- over 22,000 current and former members of the Fund, and their dependants
- about 40 employers within the Enfield Council area or with close links to Enfield Council
- the local taxpayers within the London Borough of Enfield.

In relation to the governance of the Fund, the objectives are to ensure that:

- all staff and Pension Policy & Investment Committee Members charged with the financial administration and decision-making with regard to the Fund are fully equipped with the knowledge and skills to discharge the duties and responsibilities allocated to them
- the Fund is aware that good governance means an organisation is open in its dealings and readily provides information to interested parties
- all relevant legislation is understood and complied with
- the Fund aims to be at the forefront of best practice for LGPS funds
- the Fund manages Conflicts of Interest appropriately

This Policy has been put in place to assist the Fund in achieving these objectives and all Pension Policy & Investment Committee Members, Pension Board members and senior officers to whom this Policy applies are expected to continually demonstrate their own personal commitment to training and to ensuring that these objectives are met.

To assist in achieving these objectives, the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund will aim to comply with:

- the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Frameworks and

- the knowledge and skills elements of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and The Pensions Regulator's (TPR) Code of Practice for Public Service Schemes

As well as any other LGPS specific guidance relating to the knowledge and skills of Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members or pension fund officers which may be issued from time to time.

This Training & Development Policy applies to all Members of the Pension Policy & Investment Committee, Pensions Board, including scheme member and employer representatives. It also applies to all managers in the Enfield Council Pension Fund Management Team and the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) (from here on in collectively referred to as the senior officers of the Fund).

Other officers involved in the daily management of the Pension Fund will also be required to have appropriate knowledge and skills relating to their roles, which will be determined and managed by the Pension Fund Manager and Pension & Treasury Manager and his/her team.

The advisers to the Fund that provides the day to day and strategic advice to the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund are also expected to be able to meet the objectives of this Policy, as are all other officers of employers participating in the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund who are responsible for pension matters are also encouraged to maintain a high level of knowledge and understanding in relation to LGPS matters, and Enfield Council will provide appropriate training for them.

This is considered separately in the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund Administration Strategy.

### **CIPFA and TPR Knowledge and Skills Requirements - *(CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework and Code of Practice)***

In January 2010 CIPFA launched technical guidance for Representatives on Pension Policy & Investment Committees and non-executives in the public sector within a knowledge and skills framework. The Framework details the knowledge and skills required by those responsible for pension scheme financial management and decision making.

In July 2015 CIPFA launched technical guidance for Local Pension Board members by extending the existing knowledge and skills frameworks in place. This Framework details the knowledge and skills required by Pension Board members to enable them to properly exercise their functions under Section 248a of the Pensions Act 2004, as amended by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

The Framework covers eight areas of knowledge and skills identified as the core requirements (which include all those covered in the existing Committee and nonexecutives' framework):

- i) Pensions legislation
- ii) Public sector pensions governance
- iii) Pension accounting and auditing standards
- iv) Pensions administration

- v) Financial services procurement and relationship management
- vi) Investment performance and risk management
- vii) Financial markets and products knowledge
- viii) Actuarial methods, standards and practice

CIPFA's Code of Practice recommends (amongst other things) that Local Government Pension Scheme administering authorities -

- formally adopt the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Frameworks (or an alternative training programme)
- ensure that the appropriate policies and procedures are put in place to meet the requirements of the Frameworks (or an alternative training programme);
- publicly report how these arrangements have been put into practice each year.

### **The Pensions Act 2004 and the Pension Regulator's Code of Practice**

Section 248a of the Pensions Act 2004, as amended by The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (PSPA13) requires Pension Board members to:

- be conversant with the rules of the scheme and any document recording policy about the administration of the scheme, and
- have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions and any other matters which are prescribed in regulations.

The degree of knowledge and understanding required is that appropriate for the purposes of enabling the individual to properly exercise the functions of a member of the Pension Board.

These requirements are incorporated and expanded on within the TPR Code of Practice which came into force on 1 April 2015. It is expected that guidance will also be issued by the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board which will explain further how these requirements will relate to LGPS administering authorities.

### **Application to the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund**

Enfield Council recognises that effective financial administration, scheme governance and decision-making can only be achieved where those involved have the requisite knowledge and skills. Accordingly, it fully supports the use of the CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Frameworks, and TPR's Code of Practice. Enfield Council adopts the principles contained in these publications in relation to the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund, and this Training and Development Policy highlights how the Council will strive to achieve those principles through use of a Training Plan together with regular monitoring and reporting.

### **The London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund Training and Development Plan**

Enfield Council recognises that attaining, and then maintaining, relevant knowledge and skills is a continual process for Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members and senior officers, and that

training is a key element of this process. Enfield Council will develop a rolling Training Plan based on the following key elements:

- 1) **Individual Training Needs:** A training needs analysis will be developed for the main roles of Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members and senior officers customised appropriately to the key areas in which they should be proficient. Training will be required in relation to each of these areas as part of any induction and on an ongoing refresher basis.
- 2) **Hot Topic Training:** The Training Plan will be developed to ensure appropriately timed training is provided in relation to hot topic areas, such as a high risk area or a specific area where decisions need to be made. This training may be targeted at specific roles.
- 3) **General Awareness:** Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members and senior officers are expected to maintain a reasonable knowledge of ongoing developments and current issues, which will allow them to have a good level of general awareness of pension related matters appropriate for their roles and which may not be specific to the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund.

Each of these training requirements will be focussed on the role of the individual i.e. a Pension Policy & Investment Committee member, a Pension Board member or the specific role of the officer.

The Pension Policy & Investment Committee agrees a training plan on an annual basis at the first meeting of the Municipal Year. The training plan is developed taking into consideration the needs of the Committee, the Board and officers to both enhance existing knowledge and skills and to develop new areas of understanding. This ensures that training is accessible to all Committee and Board members and key officers involved in the management of the Pension Fund.

Training will be delivered through a variety of methods including:

- In-house training days provided by officers and/or external providers
- Training as part of meetings (e.g. Pension Policy & Investment Committee) provided by officers and/or external advisers
- External training events
- Circulation of reading material
- Attendance at seminars and conferences offered by industry-wide bodies
- Attendance at meetings and events with the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund's investment managers and advisors
- Links to on-line training
- Access to the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund website where useful London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund specific material is available.

In addition London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund officers and advisers are available to answer any queries on an ongoing basis including providing access to materials from previous training events.

### **Initial Information and Induction Process**

On joining the Pension Policy & Investment Committee, the Pension Board or the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund Management Team, a new member or officer will be provided with the following documentation to assist in providing them with a basic understanding of London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund:

- i) The members' guide to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)
- ii) The latest Actuarial Valuation report
- iii) The Annual Report and Accounts, which incorporate:
  - a. The Funding Strategy Statement
  - b. The Governance Policy and Compliance Statement
  - c. The Statement of Investment Principles including the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund's statement of compliance with the LGPS Myners Principles
  - d. The Communications Policy
  - e. The Administration Strategy
- iv) The administering authority's Discretionary Policies
- v) The Training Policy

In addition, an individual training plan will be developed to assist each Pension Policy & Investment Committee member, Pension Board member or officer to achieve, within six months, their identified individual training requirements.

### **Monitoring Knowledge and Skills**

To identify if Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members and senior officers are meeting the objectives of this policy we will:

- 1) Compare and report on attendance at training based on the following:
  - i. Individual Training Needs – ensuring refresher training on the key elements takes place for each individual at least once every three years.
  - ii. Hot Topic Training – attendance by at least 80% of the required Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members and senior officers at planned hot topic training sessions. This target may be focussed at a particular group of Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members or senior officers depending on the subject matter.
  - iii. General Awareness – each Pension Policy & Investment Committee member, Pension Board member or officer attending at least one day each year of general awareness training or events.
  - iv. Induction training – ensuring areas of identified individual training are completed within six months.
  
- 2) Consider whether the objectives have been met as part of the annual self-assessment carried out each year which is completed by all Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, Pension Board members and senior officers.

The key risks to the delivery of this Policy are outlined below:

- i. Changes in Pension Policy & Investment Committee and/or Pension Board membership and/or senior officers' potentially diminishing knowledge and understanding.
- ii. Poor attendance and/or a lack of engagement at training and/or formal meetings by Pension Policy & Investment Committee Members, Pension Board Members and/or other senior officers resulting in a poor standard of decision making and/or monitoring.
- iii. Insufficient resources being available to deliver or arrange the required training.
- iv. The quality of advice or training provided not being to an acceptable standard.

The Pension Policy & Investment Committee members, with the assistance of London Borough of Enfield senior officers and Pension Board members will monitor these and other key risks and consider how to respond to them.

## **Reporting**

A report will be presented to the Pension Policy & Investment Committee on an annual basis setting out:

- i. The training provided / attended in the previous year at an individual level
- ii. Attendance at Pension Policy & Investment Committee and Pension Board meetings
- iii. The results of the measurements identified above.

This information will also be included in the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund's Annual Report and Accounts.

At each Pension Policy & Investment Committee and Pensions Board meeting, members will be provided with details of forthcoming seminars, conferences and other relevant training events as well as a summary of the events attended since the previous meeting.

## **Costs**

All training costs related to this Training and Development Policy are met directly by the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund.

## **Approval, Review and Consultation**

This Training and Development Policy to be approved and at the London Borough of Enfield Pension Policy & Investment Committee meeting of 21 November 2019. This Training and Development Policy to be adopted by the London Borough of Enfield Pension Board at their next meeting. It will be formally reviewed and updated at least every year or sooner if the training arrangements or other matters included within it worth re-evaluation.

## **Further Information**

If you require further information about anything in or related to this Training and Development Policy, please contact:

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## **Appendix 1**

### **CIPFA Knowledge and Skills Framework for Members of Pension Committees**

#### **Core Areas:**

#### **1. Pensions Legislative and Governance Context**

##### ***General Pensions Framework***

A general awareness of the pensions legislative framework in the UK.

##### ***Scheme-specific legislation***

- An overall understanding of the legislation specific to the scheme and the main features relating to benefits, administration and investment.
- An awareness of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 and Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 and their main features.
- An appreciation of LGPS discretions and how the formulation of the discretionary policies impacts on the pension fund, employers and local taxpayers.
- A regularly updated appreciation of the latest changes to the scheme rules.
- Knowledge of the role of the administering authority in relation to LGPS.

##### ***Pensions regulators and advisors***

An understanding of how the roles and powers of the Pension Regulator, the Pensions Advisory Service and the Pensions Ombudsman relate to the workings of the scheme.

##### ***General constitutional framework***

- Broad understanding of the role of pension fund committees in relation to the fund, administering authority, employing authorities, scheme members and taxpayers.
- Awareness of the role and statutory responsibilities of the treasurer and monitoring officer.

##### ***Pensions scheme governance***

- An awareness of the LGPS main features.
- Knowledge of the Myners principles and associated CIPFA and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) guidance.
- A detailed knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of committee members.
- Knowledge of the stakeholders of the pension fund and the nature of their interests.
- Knowledge of consultation, communication and involvement options relevant to the stakeholders.

#### **2. Pensions Accounting and Standards**

- Awareness of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and legislative requirements relating to the role of the committee and individual members in considering and signing off the accounts and annual report.

**Appendix 2 Local Pension Boards: A Technical Knowledge and Skills Framework: Learning needs analysis and training requirements**

Do I possess...?	Rate my skills 1 – no knowledge 5 – highly skilled	Training requirements	Training plan (sources and timing)
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<b>1 – Pensions legislation</b>			
A general understanding of the pensions legislative framework in the UK.	1 2 3 4 5		
An overall understanding of the legislation and statutory guidance specific to the scheme and the main features relating to benefits, administration and investment.	1 2 3 4 5		
An appreciation of LGPS discretions and how the formulation of the discretionary policies impacts on the pension fund, employers and local taxpayers.	1 2 3 4 5		
A regularly updated appreciation of the latest changes to the scheme rules.	1 2 3 4 5		
<b>2 – Pensions governance</b>			
Knowledge of the role of the administering authority in relation to the LGPS.	1 2 3 4 5		
An understanding of how the roles and powers of the DCLG, the Pensions Regulator, the Pensions Advisory Service and the Pensions Ombudsman relate to the workings of the scheme.	1 2 3 4 5		
Knowledge of the role of the Scheme Advisory Board and how it interacts with other bodies in the governance structure.	1 2 3 4 5		
A broad understanding of the role of pension fund committees in relation to the fund, the administering authority, employing authorities, scheme members and taxpayers.	1 2 3 4 5		
An awareness of the role and statutory responsibilities of the treasurer and monitoring officer.	1 2 3 4 5		

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**Appendix 2 Local Pension Boards: A Technical Knowledge and Skills Framework: Learning needs analysis and training requirements**

Do I possess...?	Rate my skills 1 – no knowledge 5 – highly skilled	Training requirements	Training plan (sources and timing)
Knowledge of the Myners principles and associated CIPFA and SOLACE guidance.	1 2 3 4 5		A detailed knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of pension board members.
Knowledge of the stakeholders of the pension fund and the nature of their interests.	1 2 3 4 5		Knowledge of consultation, communication and involvement options relevant to the stakeholders.
Knowledge of how pension fund management risk is monitored and managed.	1 2 3 4 5		An understanding of how conflicts of interest are identified and managed.
An understanding of how breaches in law are reported.	1 2 3 4 5		<b>3 – Pensions administration</b>
An understanding of best practice in pensions administration eg performance and cost measures.	1 2 3 4 5		Understanding of the required and adopted scheme policies and procedures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• member data maintenance and record-keeping processes</li> <li>• internal dispute resolution</li> <li>• contributions collection</li> <li>• scheme communication and materials.</li> </ul>

**Appendix 2 Local Pension Boards: A Technical Knowledge and Skills Framework: Learning needs analysis and training requirements**

Do I possess...?	Rate my skills 1 – no knowledge 5 – highly skilled	Training requirements	Training plan (sources and timing)
Knowledge of how discretionary powers operate.	1 2 3 4 5		
Knowledge of the pensions administration strategy and delivery (including, where applicable, the use of third party suppliers, their selection, performance management and assurance processes).	1 2 3 4 5		
An understanding of how the pension fund interacts with the taxation system in the UK and overseas in relation to benefits administration.	1 2 3 4 5		
An understanding of what AVC arrangements exist and the principles relating to the operation of those arrangements, the choice of investments to be offered to members, the provider's investment and fund performance report and the payment schedule for such arrangements.	1 2 3 4 5		
<b>4 – Pensions accounting and auditing standards</b>			
An understanding of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and legislative requirements relating to internal controls and proper accounting practice.	1 2 3 4 5		
An understanding of the role of both internal and external audit in the governance and assurance process.	1 2 3 4 5		
An understanding of the role played by third party assurance providers.	1 2 3 4 5		
<b>5 – Pensions services procurement and relationship management</b>			
An understanding of the background to current public procurement policy and procedures, and of the values and scope of public procurement and the roles of key decision-makers and organisations.	1 2 3 4 5		

Appendix 2 Local Pension Boards: A Technical Knowledge and Skills Framework: Learning needs analysis and training requirements

Do I possess...?	Rate my skills 1 – no knowledge 5 – highly skilled	Training requirements	Training plan (sources and timing)
A general understanding of the main public procurement requirements of UK and EU legislation.		1 2 3 4 5	
An understanding of the nature and scope of risks for the pension fund and of the importance of considering risk factors when selecting third parties.		1 2 3 4 5	
An understanding of how the pension fund monitors and manages the performance of their outsourced providers.		1 2 3 4 5	
<b>6 – Investment performance and risk management</b>			
An understanding of the importance of monitoring asset returns relative to the liabilities and a broad understanding of ways of assessing long-term risks.		1 2 3 4 5	
An awareness of the Myners principles of performance management and the approach adopted by the administering authority.		1 2 3 4 5	
Awareness of the range of support services, who supplies them and the nature of the performance monitoring regime.		1 2 3 4 5	



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