

Report of the Director, West Yorkshire Pension Fund, to the meeting of West Yorkshire Pension Fund Pension Board to be held on 22 June 2021

B

Subject: Training

Summary statement:

The training of Pension Board members to understand their responsibilities and the issues they are dealing with is a very high priority. Details of training courses, conferences and seminars listed may assist Board Members.

Recommendation

Consideration is given to attendance by Board Members at the events in Section 1 and members note the requirement to complete the Pension Regulators toolkit training.

Rodney Barton
Director

Portfolio:

Report contact: Caroline Blackburn
Phone: (01274) 434523
E-mail: caroline.blackburn@wypf.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

1. Training Events

- 1.1 If any Pension Board member would like any specific training through one to one meetings with the in-house team, then this can be arranged.
- 1.2 Pension Board members should consider the following events.

- **Aon Training for Committee and Local Pension Board members**

Aon's training is specifically aimed at providing newly elected members with the knowledge and skills required to carry out their role in line with the (coming soon!) CIPFA knowledge and skills competencies. These sessions are also designed to be used by existing members as refresher training, and by pension officers.

Their summer 2021 training programme includes:

- **A 2 hour virtual and interactive general induction style** training session to be delivered in June/July 2021 to help new LGPS Committee and Local Pension Board members get up to speed on LGPS matters, followed by
- **6 virtual and interactive topic-based** sessions over the summer that would each be up to 2 hours in length and cover the CIPFA core competency areas, ensuring compliance with their requirements for those who attend. These sessions explore the detail of aspects such as governance, administration, funding and investment, so can be used to take those new members who have just done the induction session up to a good level of knowledge or as refresher for those who haven't had general training on these topics for some time.

Further details and dates of can be found on Appendix A – Aon Training Solutions for the LGPS

- **LGA Fundamentals training programme 2021**

Fundamentals is a bespoke three-day training course aimed at elected members and others who attend pension committees/panels and local pension boards. Past delegates include elected members, trade union representatives, member and employer representatives, as well as a variety of officers who attend/support committees and some private sector organisations who provide services to administering authorities. The course provides a scheme overview and covers current issues in relation to administration, investments and governance of the LGPS.

Attending all three days will assist delegates in meeting the relevant requirement for

knowledge, skills and understanding either required in statute or encouraged by relevant guidance.

Each day has a different theme and will include sessions delivered by experts in their field. The event also provides delegates with valuable networking opportunities. Each day's programme will start at 10am, with registration and coffee from 9:30am, and close by 4pm with refreshments and lunch provided. For full details see the Training programme at Appendix B.

As usual, the training will take place in three locations, London, Leeds and Cardiff. The London sessions will be hybrid, so delegates will have the choice of attending in person or virtually. The sessions in Leeds and Cardiff will be face to face only.

- **LGA Annual Governance Conference**

The annual conference retains its popular lunchtime to lunchtime format. It will start on Thursday 20 January and end on Friday 21 January 2022. It will take place at the Marriott Highcliffe Hotel in Bournemouth. The programme is currently being finalised.

- **LGA circulars and bulletins**

Members can also make use of the LGA website where circulars, bulletins and updates are published on a regular basis.

<http://www.lgpsregs.org/index.php>

- **Scheme Advisory Board website**

Members can find lots of useful information on the Scheme Advisory Boards website

<https://www.lgpsboard.org/>

Members can also make use of web based training.

Pensions Regulator toolkit

All Pension Board members should complete the Pension Regulators toolkit training. Once completed a copy of the completion certificate should be given to the Technical and Development Manager.

The Trustee toolkit is a free, online learning programme aimed at trustees of occupational pension schemes.

The Trustee toolkit includes a series of online learning modules and downloadable resources developed to help you meet the **minimum** required level of knowledge and understanding introduced in the Pensions Act 2004.

<https://trusteetoolkit.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>

Other online training is available at **Aberdeen Standard Investments Learning Gateway**

Web based training provided by Aberdeen Standard Investments

<https://www.aberdeenstandard.com/en/uk/adviser/investment-tools/learning-gateway>

2. Recommendations

Consideration is given to attendance by Board Members at the event in Section 1

Pension Board Members note the requirement to complete the Pension Regulators toolkit training.