

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Board (Standing Orders)

1. Notice of Meetings

Meetings of the Board will be convened by the Administering Authority, who will also arrange the clerking and recording of meetings (a member of the County Council's Democratic and Members' Services Team will act as Clerk). Officers from the LGSS Pension Service will provide pension fund information to the Board.

The agenda and papers for meetings must be available at least five clear working days before the meeting.

2. Chairmanship

A Chairman/woman and Vice-Chairman/woman will be appointed by the employer and member representatives of the Board from among their own number but not from the same sector of representatives.

The role of the Chairman/woman is to ensure meetings are properly conducted, decision making is clear and professional advice is followed. The Chairman/woman will agree the agenda and approve the minutes for each meeting.

3. Other members

The Board may appoint other members with the agreement of the Administering Authority. Other members will not have voting rights on the Board.

4. Reporting

The Board should in the first instance report its requests, recommendations or concerns to the Pension Committee.

On receipt of a report, the Committee should, within a reasonable period, consider and respond to the Board.

Where the Board is not satisfied with the response received it may request that a notice of its concern be placed on the website and in the Fund's annual report.

Where the Board is satisfied that there has been a breach of regulation which has been reported to the Committee and has not been rectified within a reasonable period of time it is under an obligation to escalate the breach.

The appropriate internal route for escalation is to the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 officer.

The Board may report concerns to the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board for considering subsequent to, but not instead of, using the appropriate internal route for escalation.

Board members are also subject to the requirements to report breaches of law under the Act and the Code [and the whistleblowing provisions set out in the Administering Authority's whistle blowing policy].

The Board will publish an annual report of its activities for that year and include it part of the Pension Fund's annual report.

5. Board Knowledge and Understanding

Every individual who is a member of the Board must be conversant:

- with the rules of the Local Government Pension Scheme;
- any document recording policy about the administration of the Fund which is for the time being adopted in relation to the Fund.

Every individual who is a member of the Board must also have knowledge and understanding of:

- the law relating to pensions; and
- such other matters as may be prescribed.

The Board shall establish and maintain a Knowledge and Understanding Policy and Framework to address the knowledge and understanding requirements that apply to Board members under the Act.

6. Members' Conduct

The Board should at all times act in a reasonable manner in the conduct of its purpose. Part 5 - Codes and Protocols of the County Council's Constitution will therefore apply to all members of the Board.

The Board should always act within its terms of reference and standing orders.

7. Termination of Membership

Board membership may be terminated prior to the end of the term of office due to:

- (i) a member representative appointed on the basis of their membership of the scheme no longer being a scheme member in the Fund;
- (ii) a member representative no longer being a scheme member or a representative of the body on which their appointment relied;
- (iii) an employer representative no longer holding the office or employment or being a member of the body on which their appointment relied;
- (iv) a Board member no longer being able to demonstrate to the Administering Authority their capacity to attend and prepare for meetings or to participate in required training;
- (v) the representative being withdrawn by the nominating body and a replacement identified;

- (vi) a Board member has a conflict of interest which cannot be managed in accordance with the Code of Conduct;
- (vii) a Board member who is an elected member becomes a member of the Pensions Committee;
- (viii) a Board member who is an officer of the Administering Authority becomes responsible for the discharge of any function of the Administering Authority under the Regulations.

8. Role of Advisors

The Board will seek alternative routes for advice prior to outside advisors being commissioned at considerable cost. The approval of the Section 151 is required if the Board needs to pay advisers.

9. Urgent Items of Business and the Publication of Information

The Board will follow the requirements of the Local Government Access to Information Act 1985 as set out in the Administering Authority's Constitution.

10. Working Groups/Sub-Committees

The Board will have the power to set up working groups/sub committees if appropriate.

11. Expenses

Board members will be able to claim reasonable expenses from the Pension Fund if claimed within two months.

Travel by private vehicles will be reimbursed at the rates set for tax allowance purposes by the Inland Revenue for business travel. Currently these are 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p a mile thereafter and an additional 5p per mile where a passenger (another councillor) is carried.

Parking fees and public transport fares will be reimbursed at cost on production of a valid ticket or receipt. In the case of travel by rail, standard class fare or actual fare paid (if less) will be reimbursed.

12. Public Access to Board Meetings and Information

The Board meetings can be open to the general public (unless there is an exemption under the relevant legislation which would preclude part (or all) of the meeting from being open to the general public.

The following will be entitled to attend Board meetings in an observer capacity:

- (a) Members of the Pension Fund Committee;
- (b) Any person requested to attend by the Board.

Any such attendees will be permitted to speak at the discretion of the Chairman/woman.

13. **Data Protection**

The Administering Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, assumes the role of the Data Controller.

14. **Amendment of the Terms of Reference (Constitution) and Standing Orders**

The Board may recommend variations to its Terms of Reference or Standing Orders by a simple majority vote by the members provided that prior notice of the nature of the proposed variation is made and included on the agenda for the meeting. The recommendation will then need to be approved by Full Council.