

**Local Pension Board**

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

**Report by: Head of Pensions**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Cambridgeshire Pension Fund - 2020-21 Communications Strategy</b>
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To present the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund Communications Strategy for 2020-21
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>The Board is asked to review and comment on the Communications Strategy</b>
<b>Enquiries to:</b>	Cory Blose – LGSS Employer Services and Systems Manager cblose@northamptonshire.gov.uk

**1. Background**

1.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme regulations 2013 requires the Pension Fund to prepare, maintain and publish a written statement setting out its policy concerning communications with members and scheme employers.

*61. (1) An administering authority must prepare, maintain and publish a written statement setting out its policy concerning communications with:*

- (a) members;*
- (b) representatives of members;*
- (c) prospective members; and*
- (d) scheme employers.*

*(2) In particular the statement must set out its policy on:*

- (a) the provision of information and publicity about the scheme to members, representatives of members and scheme employers;*
- (b) the format, frequency and method of distributing such information or publicity; and*
- (c) the promotion of the Scheme to prospective members and their employers.*

*(3) The statement must be revised and published by the administering authority following a material change in their policy on any of the matters referred to in paragraph (2).*

1.2 The Communications Strategy forms part of that policy as required by regulation 61(2) above.

1.3 The Communications Strategy has been reviewed and updated and the board is asked to review and provide comments. The main changes are summarised in the following section of this report and the draft document has been included as appendix 1.

## 2. Summary of changes

- 2.1 The Communications Strategy has been updated with some minor changes to ensure that current membership figures, Fund objectives, stakeholders and date references are up to date.
- 2.2 The Fund's Digital Communication Strategy, which was approved by the Pensions Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019, has also been incorporated.
- 2.3 The table below highlights the key changes to the strategy:

Section	Change	Detail
2	Final paragraph of regulatory framework is new	Funds need to write to members informing them of their intention to move to digital communications and offer them the option to opt out.
2	Disclosure updated with a digital example	Using secure portals to exchange data with third parties. Highlights where to find our full privacy notice.
2	Equality expanded to cover accessibility	Provides examples of how we provide communications in different formats and details how our website is accessible.
2	New section added on digital communications	Details the rationale and benefits of moving towards digital communications.
2	New column added to table under 'Implementation of communication key objectives'	Shows the ways in which we're implementing our communication objectives digitally.
2	Three new subheadings have been added under 'Methods of communication and key messages for stakeholders'	This has been expanded to provide details on how we're using electronic notifications, skype and secure web portals as part of our communications strategy.

## 3. Relevant Pension Fund objectives

Promote the scheme as a valuable benefit. <i>(Objective no 12)</i>
Deliver consistent Plain English communications to stakeholders. <i>(Objective no 13)</i>
Provide scheme members with up to date information about the scheme so they can make informed decisions about their benefits. <i>(Objective no 14)</i>

## 4. Finance & resources implications

- 4.1 There are no direct finance and resource implications of approving this strategy, however, the communication activities themselves will have costs and resource application which will depend entirely on the final specification of each communication activity. Any project related costs associated with delivering these activities have been built into the business plan and ongoing communication costs are picked up in the administration budget.
- 4.2 A move towards electronic communications should save costs in the long run.

## 5. Risk management

- 5.1 The Fund is required by legislation to prepare, maintain and publish a written statement setting out its policy concerning communications with members and scheme employers.
- 5.2 The risks associated with not having a communications strategy have been captured in the Fund's risk register as detailed below.

Risk No	Risk mitigated	Residual risk
6	Information may not be provided to stakeholders as required.	Green
14	Failure to administer the scheme in line with regulations and guidance	Green

- 5.3 The full risk register can be found at the following link;

<https://pensions.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2019/10/RiskRegisterCPF.pdf>

## 6. Communication implications

<b>Direct communications</b>	Not applicable
<b>Website</b>	The approved communications strategy will be published on our website
<b>Internal communications</b>	The approved communications strategy will be distributed internally to officers.

## 7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Not applicable

## 8 Consultation with key advisers

- 8.1 Consultation with the funds advisers was not required for this report.

## 9. Alternative options considered

- 9.1 Not applicable

## 10. Background papers

- 10.1 Our digital communications strategy was shared with the board on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019. No other background papers.

## 11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Cambridgeshire Pension Fund – 2020-21 Communications Strategy.

<b>Checklist of key approvals</b>	
Has this report been cleared by Head of Pensions?	Mark Whitby – 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2020