

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**PENSIONS & INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE**

**6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Report of the Director of Finance and ICT**

**Delegation of responsibilities in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To ask the Committee to approve the delegation to the Director of Finance and ICT of decisions relating to applications for admitted body status into the Derbyshire Local Government Pension Fund.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The role and workload of the Pensions and Investment Committee (the Committee) has broadened since April 2015 to reflect the Government's increased emphasis on the governance and scrutiny of public sector pension schemes. Alongside this, the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) has become increasingly complex to administer. The role of the Committee has been shifting therefore to focus less on individual Fund members and their benefit calculations, towards giving a greater emphasis to strategy and compliance matters.

The Government's new Fair Deal Guidance introduced in 2013 and the Best Value Authorities Staff Transfers (Pensions) Direction 2007 provide for continued LGPS membership where public sector employees are transferred to an outsourced contractor.

The Committee's terms of reference include considering applications for admitted body status to the Derbyshire Pension Scheme. However, the effect of the above Guidance and Direction is that the Committee has no alternative but to approve an application provided the new employer has agreed to the required financial safeguards for the Pension Fund.

There has been a significant increase in the number of such applications and the requirement to take each one to a Committee meeting inevitably delays the process and risks not complying with the time limits for approval.

Enquiries made of ten other local authority pension funds have shown that in all of them decision making in respect of applications for admitted body status is delegated to officers by their respective Committees. Adopting a similar approach in Derbyshire would not only enable the Committee to concentrate on developing its role regarding its strategy, governance and compliance matters but would also ensure greater consistency with other local government pension scheme funds.

It is recommended therefore that the Committee should delegate consideration and determination of applications for admitted body status to the Derbyshire Local Government Pension Scheme to the Director of Finance and ICT.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

None

### **4. Legal Considerations**

As set out in the report.

### **5. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered – human resources, equality and diversity, health, environmental, transport, property and prevention of crime and disorder considerations.

### **6. Officer's Recommendation**

That the Committee delegates authority to the Director of Finance and ICT to determine applications for admission body status to the Derbyshire Local Government Pension Scheme.

**PETER HANDFORD**

**Director of Finance & ICT**