

PENSIONS COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2023

Report of the Director of Finance

STAFFORDSHIRE PENSION FUND COMMUNICATION POLICY STATEMENT

Recommendation of the Chair

1. That the Pensions Committee approves the revised and updated Communication Policy Statement attached as Appendix 1.

Background

2. Regulation states, and best practice dictates, that a Pension Fund should have a range of written policies and procedures in place. Having such, not only proves regulatory compliance, but more importantly demonstrates good governance and provides a range of information to stakeholders.
3. The Staffordshire Pension Fund endeavours to have a full range of policies in place and has made efforts over recent years to update and review them regularly. Pensions Committee have approved these policies where necessary and several have also been the subject of wider consultation with the Fund's many stakeholders.

Communication Policy Statement

4. **Regulation 61** of the Local Government Pensions Scheme Regulations 2013 states:

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).

5. The Communication Policy Statement was last reviewed in June 2021 and, as well as reflecting changes in procedures at that time, it incorporated the impact and changes from more flexible ways of working and communicating, because of the pandemic.
6. The 2023 review of the Communication Policy Statement has provided a further opportunity to reflect on current working practices and methods of communication, but as there have been no significant changes, wider consultation is considered unnecessary.

Rob Salmon
Director of Finance

Contact: Melanie Stokes
Assistant Director for Treasury & Pensions
Telephone No: (01785) 276330

Background Documents:
Local Government Pensions Scheme Regulations 2013

Equalities implications: There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

Legal implications: The legal implications are covered in the body of the report.

Resource and Value for money implications: There are no direct resource and value for money implications arising from this report.

Risk implications: The legal implications are covered in the body of the report.

Climate Change implications: There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

Health Impact Assessment screening: There are no health impact assessment implications arising from this report.