



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Virtual meeting of the Pension Fund Committee held on Tuesday, 16 July 2024 at  
10.00 am

### **County Borough Councillors**

Councillor M Norris (Chair)

Councillor M Ashford    Councillor C Leyshon  
Councillor K Johnson    Councillor N H Morgan

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr B Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director of Finance, Digital and Frontline Services  
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services  
Ms Y Keitch, Principal Accountant, Treasury Management and Pension Fund

#### **1        DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

#### **2        MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

#### **3        WORK PROGRAMME**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director – Finance, Digital and Frontline Services presented the report to Members which provided details of the Committee's Terms of Reference, their strategic role and proposed work programme for the 2024/25 Municipal Year. Members were informed of the items scheduled for the year and were reminded that the Work Programme remains flexible to adapt to changing priorities and business requirements, which will be by the agreement of the Chair.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- i. To note the Terms of Reference.
- ii. To note and agree the work programme.
- iii. To note and maintain appropriate 'skills & knowledge' as set out at paragraph 5 of the report.

#### **4        DELEGATED FUNCTIONS REPORT**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director – Finance, Digital and Frontline Services presented the report to Members which set out the key issues being addressed as delegated functions, as specified in the Pension Fund Governance

Policy Statement.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director referred Members to the performance of the Fund detailed within 4.2 of the report, explaining that during the quarter ended 31st March 2024, the overall value of the Fund increased from £4,492 million to £4,712 million. Members were also provided with a summary of the Fund's 3-year performance relative to the specific benchmark, this being 1.7% positive compared to a +5.6% benchmark, and it was noted that the Fund's performance over the long term (i.e. 10 years+) continued to demonstrate strong performance results and was well positioned compared to the performance of other UK Local Government Pension Funds. The Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director went on to provide Members with an update in respect of the Fund's asset allocation strategy and, in line with this, the progress being made to invest in infrastructure.

The Chair commented on the data, referencing the Fund's investment in technology, which may have impacted on performance.

The Service Director, Finance and Improvement continued and provided Members with an administrative update which included details of the newly published General Code of Practice, the Pensions National Dashboards Programme and Member Self-Serve (MSS). The Service Director also provided updates around the work being progressed in respect of compiling 2024 Annual Benefit Statements by the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024; preparatory discussions for the 2025 Triennial Valuation exercise; the Mccloud working group and progress in respect of employer data collection; and the low number of 'Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure' Appeals.

Members of the Committee referenced MSS and commented that although it was positive to see an increase in the number of registrations, Members queried how this could be promoted further to encourage service users to access the system. Officers responded by advising that there is on-going focus to promote MSS via, for example, employee induction arrangements and at employer communication forum meetings.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- i. To note the issues being addressed; and
- ii. To consider whether they wish to receive further detail on any issues.

## **5 PENSION FUND RISK REGISTER - RISK REGISTER OVERVIEW**

The Service Director, Finance and Improvement Services presented the report and referred Members to the Risk Register attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration. Members were informed that the Pension Fund Risk Register provided an overview of the arrangements in place to manage the risks to the Fund and was presented to the quarterly meetings of the Investment and Administration Advisory Panel for review, challenge, and agreement, with the updated Risk Register then published on the Fund Website. The Service Director indicated that the RCT Pension Board also reviews and recommends updates to the Risk Register as part of its role in supporting the Fund's overall governance arrangements.

The Service Director went on to provide the Committee with the updates that had been incorporated into the Risk Register for the quarter ending June 2024,

as set out at Appendix 1 of the report. The Chair commented on the role of the Committee in respect of the Investment Strategy and the position with the Triennial Valuation. Officers confirmed that the Risk Register will be updated as part of the next quarterly update to reflect the preparatory work that has commenced in respect of the 2025 Triennial Valuation.

The Committee **RESOLVED**:

- i. To note the arrangements in place for the management of risk within the Fund; and
- ii. To note the Risk Register as outlined within (Appendix 1) of the report.

## **6 WALES PENSION PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE**

The Principal Accountant, Treasury Management and Pension Fund provided an update and progress for Members with regard to the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) and Joint Governance Committee (JGC).

Members were provided with details of the forthcoming meeting of the JGC, details of the annual policies and papers that were to be reviewed at this meeting were highlighted to Members.

Details were also provided in respect of a number of policies that have been subject to an annual review, including the Responsible Investment Policy, Climate Policy and Stewardship Policy.

The Principal Accountant continued to update Members on the various procurement processes which are either underway or completed, with Members being advised that the JGC will consider and if deemed appropriate approve the recommended successful bidders in the real estate tender at the forthcoming meeting.

The Officer concluded the update by providing details in respect of the next steps and priorities for the WPP and JGC which included the launch of the real estate investment programme, voting and engagement service provider procurement process and the oversight advisor procurement process.

The Chair thanked the officer for the update and it was **RESOLVED**

- i. To note the update

**This meeting closed at 10.37 am**

**Councillor M Norris  
Chair.**