

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**SURREY PENSION FUND COMMITTEE****DATE: 22 MARCH 2024****LEAD OFFICER: ANNA D'ALESSANDRO, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL****SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey Pension Fund recognises the importance of providing excellent communication to stakeholders of the pension scheme. This report introduces the Pension Fund communication policy statement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Pension Fund Committee:

1. Approves the Communication Policy Statement 2024/25.
2. Reviews this policy on an annual basis.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Communication Policy Statement ensures that the Fund meets the Regulatory communication requirements and recognises the importance of providing comprehensive and timely information to its stakeholders.

DETAILS:**Background**

1. The Communications Policy Statement (the Statement) sets out how the Fund complies with Regulation 61 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013, requiring each Administering Authority to prepare, maintain and publish a written statement setting out its policy concerning communication with members, prospective members, employers and other relevant stakeholders. 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
 - c) The promotion of the Scheme to prospective members and their employers.
2. The Statement must be revised and published by the administering authority following a material change in this policy.

3. The main updates to the 2024-25 Communications Policy are the inclusion of Dashboards as well as a reconsidered approach to communicating with our various stakeholders in line with our Strategic Stakeholder plan to Amplify our Presence.

Key Objective

4. The key objective of the policy is to:
 - a) Provide clear, friendly, and timely communication to its members and stakeholders
 - b) Recognise the requirement for different methods of communication for different members
 - c) Inform members and stakeholders to enable them to make decisions regarding pensions matters
 - d) Aim for full appreciation of the pension scheme benefits and changes to the scheme by all scheme members and prospective members
 - e) Promote the LGPS as an attractive benefit to scheme members

Communication Plan

5. In order to ensure that the annual delivery of communications is understood, a communications plan is attached in Annexe 1.

CONSULTATION:

6. The Chair of the Board and Committee has been consulted and the Chair of the Board supports the recommendations.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

7. There are no direct risk implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

8. Provision of appropriate communication media will result in expenditure that will be met by the Pension Fund.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL COMMENTARY

9. The Director of Finance, Corporate and Commercial is satisfied that all material, financial and business issues, and possibility of risks have been considered.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

10. There are no legal implications or legislative requirements.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

11. The approval of Communication Policy Statement does not require an equality analysis, as the initiative is not a major policy, project, or function.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no potential implications for council priorities and policy areas.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

13. Subject to agreement by the Committee, policy will be published.

Contact Officer:

Bethany Goss

Annexes:

1. Annexe 1: Communication Policy Statement 2024/25

Sources/background papers:

None

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