

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

PENSION FUND BOARD

DATE: 15 NOVEMBER 2013

LEAD OFFICER: SHEILA LITTLE, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

SUBJECT: PENSION FUND RISK REGISTER



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Surrey County Council, as administering authority for the Surrey Pension Fund, is responsible for the delivery of benefit promises made to members of the Surrey Pension Fund. It achieves this by setting objectives and goals with varying timeframes. Risks lie in failing to meet the intended goals.

Risks that are established as an issue must be identified and evaluated via a risk register. The risks must be prioritised with existing controls or new controls implemented to mitigate the risks. This should be recorded in a risk register, which needs monitoring on a quarterly basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Members assess the Risk Register in Annex 1, making any suggestions for amendment/additions as necessary.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

A solid framework of risk management is required in order to manage the considerable risk environment surrounding the governance and investment of the pension fund.

DETAILS:

Background

- 1 A review of the current risk register for the Pension Fund will give the Pension Fund Board the opportunity to influence and drive the Pension Fund risk management process for 2013-2014.

Risk Management Process

- 2 The risk management policy of the Surrey Pension Fund is to adopt best practice in the identification, evaluation and control of risks in order to ensure that the risks are recognised, and then either eliminated or reduced to a manageable level. If neither of these options is possible, then means to mitigate the implications of the risks should be established.

- 3 The Pension Fund & Treasury Manager has identified a number of risks associated with the Pension Fund. The risks are grouped as follows:
 - Investment
 - Financial
 - Funding
 - Operational
 - Governance

- 4 Each of the risk areas has been assessed in terms of its impact on the Fund as a whole, on the fund employers, and on the reputation of the Pension Board and Surrey County Council as the administering authority. Assessment has also been given as to the likelihood of the risk.

- 7 Each of the three areas of impact identified above is assessed on a scale of one to four, with four implying the highest level of impact. The likelihood of the risk description is then applied to the combined impact score, which produces an overall risk score. Depending on the score, the risks are then identified as Red, Amber or Green.

- 8 To comply with best practice, a revised scoring process has been implemented, which will reassess the risk scores after the mitigating action taken to control and reduce the risks. The risk register has been revised to include a revised impact score and net risk score as a result of those mitigating actions.

- 9 The revised schedule is included as Annex 1. The previously approved schedule in the original format is shown as Annex 2.

Review

- 10 The risk register will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

CONSULTATION:

- 11 The Chairman of the Pension Fund Board has been consulted and has offered full support for the quarterly scrutiny process.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

- 12 The risk related issues are contained within the report's Annex 1.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 13 There are no expected additional costs from compiling, maintaining and monitoring a risk register.

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER COMMENTARY

- 14 The Chief Finance Officer is satisfied that all material, financial and business issues and possibility of risks have been considered and addressed and that the risk register will provide officers with a suitable platform for the monitoring and control of pension fund risks.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

- 15 There are no legal implications or legislative requirements associated with this report.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

- 16 The creation of a risk register will not require an equality analysis, as the initiative is not a major policy, project or function being created or changed.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 18 The following next steps are planned:
- Monitoring by officers and reporting every quarter.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Pension Fund Board members.

Annexes:

List the annexes attached to this report.
Annex 1: Pension Fund Risk Register
Annex 2: Previous register in original format

Sources/background papers:

None

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