

SURREY PENSION FUND COMMITTEE REPORT



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

SURREY PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

DATE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2024

LEAD OFFICER: ANNA D'ALESSANDRO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT CONSULTANT UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report provides an update on investment consultancy services to the Fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Pension Fund Committee:

1. Approve the extension of the contract with Mercer for the provision of investment consultancy services to the Surrey Pension Fund.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

A contract extension will ensure the continued provision of investment consultancy services by Mercer. Mercer has a strong understanding of the assets and liabilities of the Fund and has passed the Fund's Competition & Markets Authority (CMA) review for objectives and tasks each year.

DETAILS:

Background

1. As part of a continuous review of the best value received by the Fund for investment consultancy, and in accordance with best practice, a contract for investment consultant was tendered by the Fund in 2021.
2. The procurement was run under the National LGPS Framework (the Framework). Mercer was identified as the highest scoring candidate and the Committee approved their appointment as the Pension Fund Investment Consultant on a 3-year contract with an option to extend for 2 years, in line with the Framework's document.
3. Since the initiation of this contract, Mercer have delivered on their objectives and performance criteria, as reported in the CMA review Committee papers each December.

4. It is recommended that the option to extend the contract with Mercer for another 2 years be taken up.

CONSULTATION:

5. The Chair of the Pension Fund Committee has been consulted on this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

6. Any relevant risk related implications have been considered and are contained within the report.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

7. Any relevant financial and value for money implications have been considered and are contained within the report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE COMMENTARY:

8. The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services is satisfied that all material, financial and business issues and possibility of risks have been considered and addressed.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER:

9. There are no legal implications or legislative requirements.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY:

10. There are no equality or diversity issues.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

11. There are no other implications.

NEXT STEPS:

12. Further updates will be brought to the committee as required

Contact Officer:

Lloyd Whitworth, Head of Investment & Stewardship

Annexes:

None

Sources/Background papers:

None