

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	PENSION COMMITTEE	
DATE OF DECISION	3 December 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Governance Best Practice Compliance Statement	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Jane West, Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)	
LEAD OFFICER:	Matthew Hallett- Head of Pensions and Treasury	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	NO	
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A	

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates the Governance Best Practice Compliance Statement for consideration by the Committee and advises them that it was reviewed by the Pension Board on 25 July 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Pension Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 to review and agree the draft Governance Best Practice Compliance Statement attached as Appendix A.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is the duty of the Pension Committee to ensure that regulatory compliance, good stewardship and best practice are applied to the Council's Pension Fund.

4. BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 Regulation 55 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 requires an administering authority to prepare a written statement setting out the extent to which a delegation of its functions to a committee, or the absence of a delegation, complies with guidance given by the Secretary of State and, to the extent that it does not so comply, the reasons for not complying. In addition, Area A3 of the Scheme Advisory Board Good Governance Review recommends Local Government Pension Scheme administering authorities to measure their governance arrangements against any standards set out.

Statutory Guidance was issued by the, then, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The Committee is expected to review the Governance Best Practice Compliance Statement annually and must consult such persons as it considers appropriate when preparing or revising the Statement.

- 4.2** The Committee last considered the draft Statement on 20 June 2023.
- 4.3** In view of nature and content of the Statement it is considered appropriate for the Pension Board to be invited to comment on a draft in advance of the Committee's consideration. This occurred on 25 July 2024 and, whilst the Board discussed some matters arising from the Statement at length they did not ask for any amendments.
- 4.4** The draft Best Practice Compliance Statement, included as Appendix A, sets out where the Pension Fund is fully compliant with the Guidance and, where it is not fully compliant, provides an explanation.
- 4.5** Recommended changes from the version agreed on 20 June 2023 are as follows:
- Principle Ab – to reflect changes to the Constitution and
Principle Ea – to reflect latest developments
- 4.6** The Committee are asked to review and agree the attached Governance Best Practice Compliance Statement.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1** N/A

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1** No consultation outside the formal process is required

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 7.1** Ensuring regulatory compliance, good stewardship and best practice are applied to the Council's Pension Fund

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1.** There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 8.1.2.** Comments approved by James Huggett, Head of Strategic Finance for Resources, ACE and MTFs on behalf of Allister Bannin, the Director of Finance. (Date 25/11/2024)

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1.** Burges Salmon LLP (a legal advisor appointed to the Pension Fund) note there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report although the Committee should consider those areas where it is considered there is not

compliance with the Guidance and understand the steps being taken to address those issues.

8.2.2. Comments approved by Burges Salmon LLP (Date 21/11/2024)

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.3.1. The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Council must therefore have due regard to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics defined by law are race and ethnicity, disability, sex, gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership.

8.3.2. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

8.3.3. Comments approved by Ken Orlukwu, Senior Equalities Officer, on behalf of Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy (Date 21/11/2024).

8.4 HR IMPACT

8.4.1. There are no immediate workforce implications arising from this report. If there were the council would apply its HR policy and procedure framework as appropriate.

8.4.2. Comments approved by Dean Shoesmith, the Chief People Officer. (Date 22/11/2024)

9. APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix A – Governance Best Practice and Compliance Statement

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 None

