

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Governance Update Report</b>	<b>Status</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to</b>	Local Pension Board	<b>Date</b>	10/08/2023
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	Not Required	Attached	Na
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## **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide members with an update on current governance related activity.
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## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- a. **Note the current Authority governance position, including decisions made between meetings.**
  - b. **Note the findings and recommended activities for 2023/24 around members' learning and development.**
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## **3 Link to Corporate Objectives**

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objectives:  
Effective and Transparent Governance  
To uphold effective governance always showing prudence and propriety.

## **4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register**

- 4.1 The contents of this report set out the actions being taken in several areas that will contribute to addressing various risks in relation to governance and operations.

## **5 Background and Options**

- 5.1 This is a regular report to update the Board on activities being undertaken in relation to governance arrangements in the organisation.
- 5.2 All mandatory training was completed successfully by long standing members. The team are now working on plans to ensure mandatory training will be completed by new members joining in the new municipal year. A full analysis of member training is provided in a separate report.

- 5.3 The implementation of the new Risk Management software system (*Pentana*) is well in progress with training and configuration completed in the last month, and work on schedule for the planned go-live date of 24 August.
- 5.4 This system will be used to document and manage the strategic risk register, provide functionality to track actions being taken to manage risks, and enable the Governance team to produce improved reporting on the risk register. In time, this will be further enhanced by adding an operational risk register for each of the main services across the organisation, with ownership of the service managers. In order to support this work, a bespoke risk management training session for all the relevant service managers has been arranged to take place in September. The *Pentana* system will also be used for documentation, management, and reporting of the projects across the organisation and for the corporate performance management framework and performance indicators.
- 5.5 LPB members will be given a demonstration on the system and the advantages of its portals for reporting at a future meeting later in the year.
- 5.6 The Governance team have led on the review of the Authority's appeals process in collaboration with the systems, benefits, and engagement teams. A revised process for stage 1, stage 2 appeals and ombudsman appeals has been approved by SMT on 21 July. Staff will receive training in September on the enhanced processes. The enhanced processes will enable the Governance team to track, manage and monitor appeals to ensure timely response and action to the scheme member. It will also enable accurate reporting to the Authority and the Local Pension Board.
- 5.7 Alongside the review of the appeals process, working with the Assistant Director – Pensions, areas for improvement in the ill health process were also identified and a further piece of work has commenced to progress this, expected to be completed later in the year. Members will be kept informed of progress.
- 5.8 In relation to statutory role holders as reported to the Board in April, the Director as Head of Paid Service, Assistant Director – Resources as Chief Finance Officer and Head of Governance as Monitoring Officer have now formally met as planned and agreed a quarterly meeting with the Authority's Deputy Clerk (Service Director – Law & Governance at Barnsley MBC), to ensure an open and transparent working relationship to liaise and report on all statutory matters. The Head of Governance is now also receiving coaching and mentoring from the Deputy Clerk to increase knowledge and skills in relation to her Monitoring Officer role.
- 5.9 Following completion of the comprehensive review of the Constitution, the Governance team are now conducting a full review of the Local Code of Governance and the revised Code will be presented to the Board at their next meeting for comment.

## **6 Implications**

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	None
Human Resources	None
ICT	None
Legal	None
Procurement	None

**Head of Governance & Monitoring Officer**

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
None	-