

Agenda Item

Subject	Update on Decisions Made by the Authority	Status	For Publication
Report to	Local Pension Board	Date	15 February 2024
Report of	Head of Governance		
Equality Impact Assessment	Not Required	Attached	No
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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Local Pension Board members with an update on decisions made by the Authority and its Committees, and any decisions taken under the urgency procedure between meetings of the Authority.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Board Members are recommended to:
- a. Note and comment upon the decisions included in this report.**

3 Link to Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objective:
- Effective and Transparent Governance**

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

- 3.2 The contents of this report are part of the arrangements in place to ensure good governance and that the Local Pension Board is enabled to fulfil its duties to scrutinise the decision making of the Authority in relation to the administering of the South Yorkshire Pension Fund.

4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register

- 4.1 The contents of this report will contribute to addressing risks around regulatory compliance.

5 **Background and Options**

- 5.1 This report provides an update for the Local Pension Board on decisions taken by the Authority in the period since the last meeting of the Local Pension Board. (Excluding any substantive items already included in reports elsewhere on the Board’s agenda).
- 5.2 There has been one meeting of the Full Authority and one meeting of the Authority’s Audit & Governance Committee since the Board’s last meeting on 9 November 2023.
- 5.3 The decisions taken at the Authority meeting are set out in the table at paragraph 5.6 below.
- 5.4 The only decisions taken at the Audit & Governance Committee meeting relate to items that have been separately reported to the Board on items elsewhere on the agenda.
- 5.5 Note that there is a Full Authority meeting scheduled to take place on 8 February 2024 – before this meeting of the Board – but it has not taken place at the date of preparing this update report, so decisions taken will be reported at the April Board meeting. The Board may also wish to note that this February meeting of the Authority has a different purpose and agenda than the rest of the meetings during the year in that it is held for the purpose of making decisions in respect of running the Authority as a corporate organisation – including the approval of the Corporate Strategy, the Budget, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.6 The table below sets out the decisions of the Authority taken at its meeting on 7 December 2023.

Decisions Made at Authority Meeting 7 December 2023	
Full agenda and the public reports referred to below are available at: South Yorkshire Pensions Authority - Thursday 7th December 2023	
<i>Exempt reports from the December Authority meeting are included in the exempt part of the agenda for this Local Pension Board meeting.</i>	
Item 7: Minutes of the Meeting Held on 07/09/2023	The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting held on 7 September 2023.
Item 9: Quarter 2 Corporate Performance Report 2023/24	Members approved a supplementary estimate of £197,500 as set out in paragraphs 4.27 to 4.33 of the report.
Item 10: Levy 2024/25	Members approved a total levy of £286,792 for 2024/25 in accordance with <i>The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992</i> , to be allocated to the District Councils in proportion to their approved council tax base shares.
Item 11: Staff Survey 2023	Members noted and commented on the results of the staff survey and the actions outlined in relation to the areas for further improvement.
Item 15: Annual Review of Border to Coast Responsible Investment Policies	Members endorsed the various Border to Coast policies at Appendices A to C of the report. Councillor Dimond asked that his dissent be noted.
Item 16: Place Based Impact Investing – Memorandum of Understanding with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	Members authorised the Director to sign on behalf of the Authority the Memorandum of Understanding with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority at Appendix A to the report.

Decisions Made at Authority Meeting 7 December 2023	
Item 19: Governance Meeting and Training Calendar 2024/25	Members approved the 2024/25 Governance Meeting and Training Calendar.
Item 20: Border to Coast UK Property Proposition (Exemption Paragraph 3)	Members noted the progress made by Border to Coast in delivering a UK Real Estate proposition and the implications for the Authority of the transition of assets in the new proposition.

Decisions Taken Between Meetings Under the Urgency Procedure

- 5.7 It is often necessary for decisions to be taken between meetings of the Authority due to the time sensitive nature of the matters involved. These decisions are taken by the Chair in consultation with the s41 members and the Director, then published on the Authority’s website and reported to the next Authority meeting for transparency. A report is also provided to update the Local Pension Board on such decisions.
- 5.8 One decision was required between the September and the December meetings of the Authority.
- 5.9 In September 2023, a decision was taken to implement the 2023 national pay award in the September payroll based on the employer side final offer. Whilst the award had not yet been finally agreed by the NJC, this decision was made on the basis that the largest union involved had failed to gain a majority in a ballot for strike action and intended to move for a settlement based on the final offer. Given the balance of union membership it was apparent that a settlement at the employers’ final offer was inevitable.
- 5.10 UNISON were consulted and raised no objection. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority were also consulted and supported this decision.
- 5.11 Since that decision was made, the agreement of the pay award was subsequently confirmed by the NJC on 1 November 2023.

6 Implications

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

Financial	No direct implications.
Human Resources	No direct implications.
ICT	No direct implications.
Legal	No direct implications.
Procurement	No direct implications.

Jo Stone

Head of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection