

Subject	Governance Update	Status	For Publication
Report to	Authority	Date	06 June 2024
Report of	Head of Governance & Corporate Services		
Equality Impact Assessment	Not Required	Attached	No
Contact Officer	Jo Stone Head of Governance & Corporate Services	Phone	01226 666418
E Mail	jstone@sypa.org.uk		

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Authority members with an update on current governance related activity and regulatory matters.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Board Members are recommended to:
- a. Note the updates 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.

4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register

- 4.1 The actions outlined in this report relate to actions that will contribute to addressing risks around regulatory compliance.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 This report provides updates on current activities and regulatory matters relevant to the Authority's overall governance framework.

Regulatory Update: The Pensions Regulator (TPR) – General Code of Practice

- 5.2 The TPR's new General Code of Practice came into effect on 27 March 2024.
- 5.3 A full review and assessment of compliance with all the requirements and the good practice elements of the new Code has been undertaken by officers with the team from Aon (alongside the wider independent governance review work) using a tool that they have developed for this purpose. The results from the action plan will be developed and reported to the Authority at a future meeting.
- 5.4 Ensuring compliance with the General Code has also been added as an objective in the Corporate Strategy. Progress against this objective will be reported regularly throughout the year to both the Authority and the Local Pension Board.

Independent Governance Review

- 5.5 The independent governance review work is completed, and the results were presented to Authority and Local Pension Board members during the annual induction and training session on 06 June 2024.

Information Governance

- 5.6 Information Governance Action Plan: A plan is in place that continues to be implemented between now and the end of this calendar year, with a phased approach to updating the Authority's data protection policy and procedures with training and other enhancements that have been identified. Progress on the action plan is regularly reviewed with internal audit colleagues.

Member Knowledge and Understanding

- 5.7 As we commence the new municipal year neither the Authority nor LPB are compliant in the mandatory training requirements due to the number of new members. To achieve compliance, initial activity will focus on supporting new members to complete their mandatory LGPS Online Academy (LOLA) training modules within the first three months of their appointment. Upon completion new members will be asked to undertake the national skills assessment to ascertain their individual learning and development requirements.
- 5.8 New members will also commence a one-year induction programme including 3 monthly supportive sessions and one to one induction with officers.
- 5.9 Existing members will be transferred over to the updated LOLA 2 platform (the version already being used for all new members) with guidance from the Governance team on which additional modules that members will need to refresh or complete. The plans in the Learning and Development Strategy 2024/25 (elsewhere on this agenda) have been informed by the results from the national assessment to ensure individual areas for development are addressed.
- 5.10 The second annual members CPD away day is scheduled to take place on 28 November 2024 at the DMC01 in Barnsley. Members found the first away day very beneficial last year and the plan for this year's event will incorporate the suggestions from member feedback. Further details will be provided in due course.

6 Implications

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

Financial	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The costs of the Governance Review are included in the budget.
-----------	---

Human Resources	None.
ICT	None.
Legal	The Authority will ensure compliance with TPR's General Code in line with its legal requirements.
Procurement	None.

Jo Stone

Head of Governance and Corporate Services

Monitoring Officer

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
The Pensions Regulator – General Code of Practice	TPR website: www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk The General Code of Practice