



## Border to Coast Joint Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Report Title:** Joint Committee Effectiveness Review

**Report Author:** George Graham – Director SYPA

### 1.0 Executive Summary:

1.1 This report sets out the proposed arrangements for conducting a review of the effectiveness of the Joint Committee as previously agreed.

### 2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee agree the approach to conducting an effectiveness review set out in the body of this report.

### 3.0 Issues and Consideration

3.1 At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 the Joint Committee [agreed](#) to undertake an effectiveness review to examine the way in which the Committee operates and to assist in understanding whether it is meeting its objectives. It had been intended to carry this out prior to the 2024 local elections, However, the subsequent decision to focus the Committee's work on annual proposition reviews rather than quarterly performance monitoring resulted in a decision to defer this work.

3.2 It is now appropriate to consider bringing this work forward again. Officers have considered how best to carry out such a review. There are several options:

- A wholly external review such as that which the operating company's Board periodically carries out. Based on the costs incurred by the company and by one of the partner funds in carrying out an independent governance review this could depending on scope cost between £10,000 and £20,000. This seems an unjustifiably large cost in the context of the Joint Committee's limited budget.
  - A wholly internal review conducted by officers. While this could achieve some independence if carried out by officers with no or limited involvement in the work of the Joint Committee it seems unlikely that such a review would provide sufficient challenge to established thinking.
  - An internal process supported by peers from another pool that operates with a joint committee. This could bring some new thinking into the process without incurring significant cost.
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3.3 The last option is preferred based on cost and the ability to bring thinking from elsewhere into the process. The pool which has a Joint Committee that most closely resembles the Border to Coast arrangement is LGPS Central who are known to have undertaken some work to develop their Joint Committee. Given this, officers will approach Cheshire West and Chester Council who support the LGPS Central Joint Committee and seek to arrange some input into the review.

3.4 The broad scope of the review will be as follows:

- To consider how well the Joint Committee fulfils its terms of reference.
- To identify whether the Joint Committee's terms of reference should be expanded in any way to ensure effective oversight of the operation of the Partnership.
- To review the arrangements in place for feeding back on the activity of the Joint Committee to Partner Fund Pensions Committees (or equivalent).

It is envisaged that other than observation of meetings and review of agendas etc., that this will involve short online questionnaires for members of the Committee, officers and colleagues from the Company.

3.4 The intention would be to complete the effectiveness review before the next set of local elections with any recommendations therefore being implemented in the next municipal year.

#### **Report Author:**

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