

Committee: Police Pensions Board	Date: 9 February 2022
Subject: The City of London: Police Pension Scheme - Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: The Chamberlain	For Information
Report author: Graham Newman – Chamberlain's Department	

Summary

The Board have agreed that at each meeting that information regarding a range of topics in relation to the City of London Police Pension Scheme (the Scheme) would be provided along with any updates.

Item	Update
Annual schedule of events for the Pensions Scheme	Update provided (Appendix 1) .
Information of Scheme Record Keeping	No amendments since the last Board meeting.
A record of any complaints or disputes under the Scheme's complaints procedure	There has been one complaint made under the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures.
Any recent Police Pension Scheme breaches of the law	No breaches to report.
Any audit reports relating to the administration of the Scheme	None to report.
Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA18) – Data Retention Policy	No amendments since last Board meeting.
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) / Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA18) – Privacy Notice	No amendments since the last Board meeting.
Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMP) Reconciliation	The project is still expected to be completed by 31 March 2023. A report will be brought to the Board once the reconciliation has been completed.

COVID-19	<p>In response to the government's Plan B the pensions staff had returned to working from home. Once a week a member of the team has gone to the Guildhall to scan and distribute physical post electronically to avoid a backlog in post. From 31/01/2022 staff will return to two days in the office each week increasing to 3 days a week from 28 February 2022.</p> <p>The Pensions regulator (TPR), Local Government Association (LGA) & Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) guidance remains and 3 key services should be retained at all times and they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued payment of pension benefits to existing pension members • Commencement of pension benefits to new retirees • Ceasing of pension payments due to notification of death. <p>Generally communication continues to be by email and phone calls. Where scheme members have not or are unable to verify their details, letters are still posted.</p> <p>The Pensions Office has created a shared team folder which staff access when they visit the office to print and post letters. It is not the intention of the Pension Office to return to posting letters as a primary communication strategy and promotes, wherever possible, the use of email.</p>
Procurement of Pension Administration System	<p>The pension data from The Corporation's servers has successfully been moved to a hosted environment provided by the supplier, Heywood in November 2021. This went smoothly and we have already seen benefits when the software is now updated overnight and avoids any downtime to the system during business hours.</p>
Legal Challenge 1	<p><u>Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice v McCloud and others</u></p> <p>The Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill which is expected to confirm the details of the Remedy and allow implementation is currently at the Committee Stage in the House of Commons.</p>

Legal Challenge 2	<p><u>Evans & Ashcroft vs Chief Constable of South Wales</u></p> <p>This is a court of appeal case in respect of the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006.</p> <p>Guidance from the Home Office / Police Pensions Technical Group is awaited. Once received, a communication that can be sent to officers that make enquiries will be prepared.</p>
Task Statistics	<p>At the 12 June 2019 Board meeting, Members asked for statistics of the administration work carried out by the Pensions Office to be added as a standing item.</p> <p>Update provided (Appendix 2).</p>
Pension Board Training	<p>Training presentation in respect of 'Pensions Growth and the Annual Allowance' to be given by the Pensions Office.</p> <p>Board Members are asked to consider any topics of training they would like to cover in the coming year ahead.</p> <p>Details in respect of training modules completed by each Member are included on the Non-Public agenda. (Appendix 3).</p>
The Target Operating Model (TOM)	<p>A new TOM has been announced for the financial year 2021/22 and a high level structure has been approved by the Court of Common Council.</p> <p>Departments are going through their TOM structures. The Chamberlain's Department's TOM structure has been approved by the Design Board, Finance Committee and Establishment Committee and consultation with staff was launched on 26 January. In terms of the Pensions Office, the only proposals are some changes to line manager reporting.</p>

Recommendation

Members are requested to review the information and provide any comments.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Annual Schedule of events

Appendix 2 – Statistical information

Appendix 3 – Member Training (NON-PUBLIC)

Contact:

Graham Newman

Email: graham.newman@cityoflondon.gov.uk