

Oxfordshire Pension Fund - Annex 3

Governance Compliance Statement

Principle A – Structure

a.	The management of the administration of benefits and strategic management of fund assets clearly rests with the main committee established by the appointing council.	Compliant
b.	That representatives of participating LGPS employers, admitted bodies and scheme members (including pensioner and deferred members) are members of either the main or secondary committee established to underpin the work of the main committee.	Not Applicable
c.	That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, the structure ensures effective communication across both levels.	Not Applicable
d.	That where a secondary committee or panel has been established, at least one seat on the main committee is allocated for a member from the secondary committee or panel.	Not Applicable

Please use this space to explain reasons for non-compliance

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above:

Oxfordshire County Council acting as Administering Authority has determined to delegate all functions relating to the management of the Pension Fund to the Pension Fund Committee.

Principle B – Representation

a.	<p>That all key stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to be represented within the main or secondary committee structure. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing authorities (including non-scheme employers e.g. admitted bodies) • Scheme members (including deferred and pensioner scheme members) • Where appropriate, Independent professional observers, and • Expert advisors (on an ad hoc basis) 	Partly compliant
b.	<p>That where lay members sit on a main or secondary committee, they are treated equally in terms of access to papers and meetings, training and are given full opportunity to contribute to the decision making process, with or without voting rights.</p>	Compliant

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The Pension Fund Committee contains representatives of the County Council (9 Members) and the 5 City and District Councils (2 Members). The Committee is also attended by a Beneficiaries Observer, appointed by the Unions to represent all scheme members (including deferred and pensioners). The Committee though does not include any representation from other key stakeholders, including Brookes University, the colleges, the Housing Associations, the small scheduled bodies and small admitted bodies, and the Academy schools. It has been determined that given the decision to manage all functions through a single Committee, increasing representation to cover these other key stakeholder groups would make the Committee unworkable. These stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to contribute to significant decisions through consultation exercises, and the annual Forum for all employers.

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above:

Principle C – Selection and Role of Lay Members

a.	That committee or panel members are made fully aware of the status role and function they are required to perform on either a main or secondary committee.	Partly Compliant
b.	That at the start of any meeting, Committee members are invited to declare any financial or pecuniary interest related to specific matters on the agenda.	Compliant

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A briefing is provided to all new members of the Committee members clearly setting out their role and responsibilities on the Pension Fund Committee. However this briefing is not given where substitute members attend the Committee.

Please use this space if you wish to add anything to explain or expand on the ratings given above:

Principle D – Voting

a.	The policy on individual administering authorities on voting rights is clear and transparent, including the justification for not extending voting rights to each body or group represented on main LGPS committees.	Compliant
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Voting rights have been extended to the two District Council representatives on the Pension Fund Committee. As current employees of the County Council cannot have voting rights on a Council Committee, and as this group forms the largest single stakeholder group within the Fund, it has been determined that the Beneficiaries Observer does not have voting rights, to avoid any perverse incentive to appointing a current employee of the County Council to the position. This decision is clearly stated in the Fund's Governance Policy.

Principle E – Training/Facility Time/Expenses

a.	That in relation to the way in which statutory and related decisions are taken by the administering authority, there is a clear policy on training, facility time and reimbursement of expenses in respect of members involved in the decision making process.	Compliant
b.	That where such a policy exists, it applies equally to all members of committees, sub-committees, advisory panels or any other form of secondary forum.	Compliant
c.	That the Administering Authority considers the adoption of annual training plans for Committee members and maintains a log of all such training undertaken.	Partly Compliant

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The Committee considers each year the allocation to be provided as part of the annual budget to be spent on Committee member training, but it does not adopt a specific training programme.

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The Committee approve a training budget each year as a specific part of the business planning purpose. Training sessions are arranged to take place before all Committee meetings. External training courses are brought to the attention of Committee members. Training is provided free of charge, with all legitimate expenses reimbursed.

Principle F – Meetings (frequency/quorum)

a.	That an administering authority's main committee or committee meet at least quarterly	Compliant
b.	That an administering authority's secondary committee or panel meet at least twice a year and is synchronised with the dates when the main committee sits.	Non Applicable
c.	That administering authorities who do not include lay members in their formal governance arrangements, provide a forum outside of those arrangements by which the interests of key stakeholders can be represented.	Compliant

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In addition to the quarterly meetings of the main Pension Fund Committee, the Fund holds an annual Pension Fund Forum, attended by Committee Members, to which all employers are invited.

Principle G – Access

a.	That subject to any rules in the council's constitution, all members of main and secondary committees or panels have equal access to committee papers, documents and advice that falls to be considered at meetings of the main committee.	Compliant
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All information on which decisions at the main Committee are based is equally available to all Members. Under the Council's Constitution, the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson are invited to a briefing meeting in advance of each Committee meeting, and as such receive a briefing not available to other members, including representatives of the third political party.

Principle H – Scope

a.	That administering authorities have taken steps to bring wider scheme issues within the scope of their governance arrangements.	Compliant
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The Pension Fund Committee is responsible for all aspects of managing the pension fund, and receives reports on both investment and scheme administration issues. The terms of reference include the wide power to consider all relevant investment and administration issues.

Principle I – Publicity

a.	That administering authorities have published details of their governance arrangements in such a way that stakeholders with an interest in the way in which the scheme is governed can express an interest in wanting to be part of those arrangements.	Compliant
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