

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE – 1 DECEMBER 2023

RISK REGISTER & RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Report by the Executive Director of Resources & Section 151 Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - a) **Note the latest risk register and accept that the risk register covers all key risks to the achievement of their statutory responsibilities, and that the mitigation plans, where required, are appropriate;**
 - b) **Agree the new Oxfordshire County Pension Fund Risk Management Framework as set out at Appendix 'A'.**

Introduction

2. Previously, the Committee had agreed that the risk register should form a standard item for each quarterly meeting. A copy of the report also goes to each meeting of the Pension Board for their review. Any comments from the Pension Board are included in their report to this meeting.
3. The risk register (Annex 1) sets out the current risk scores in terms of impact and likelihood, and a target level of risk and a mitigation action plan to address those risks that are currently not at their target score. This report sets out any progress on the mitigation actions agreed for those risks not yet at target and identifies any changes to the risks which have arisen since the register was last reviewed.

Comments from the Pension Board

4. At their meeting on 20 October 2023, the Pension Board considered the latest risk register and requested that a new risk was added regarding the Impact of Pension Scams.

Latest Position on Existing Risks/New Risks

New Emerging Risks

5. Risk 26 – ‘Impact of Pension Scams’. It was requested by the Board to add this as a new risk to the risk register. The risk rating for the risk is a green score 3 because the risk is effectively mitigated through practices and processes which have already been established through compliance with the code of practice.

Increasing Risk

6. None of the current risks on the risk register have been assessed as increasing in their respective risk rating assessment.

Reducing Risk

7. Risk 21 – ‘Insufficient Resource and/or Data to comply with consequences of McCloud Judgement & Sergeant.’ Two new staff have been recruited to support the project, a project plan has been developed and implemented, and enquiries have gone out to all employers with responses due by the end of January 2024. The risk rating has been assessed as a lower amber 8 as opposed to a red 12 previously.

Risks removed from the Risk Register

8. Risk – ‘Legal Challenge on the basis of age discrimination in Firefighters Pension Scheme – Sergeant’ – has been removed as a risk on the register. The amending legislation has now been received and is in place, so the interim framework agreement for retirements before 1 October 2023 is no longer required.
9. Risk – ‘Departure of the current Independent Investment Advisor (IIA)’. The previous IIA has now left and has been replaced by another qualified IIA by the APEX Group.

Same Risk Rating

10. All other risks have been assessed and remain the same as last quarter.

Oxfordshire Pension Fund – Risk Management Framework

11. The Risk Management Framework is a new document for the fund. The document sets out all the key processes and responsibilities for effective risk management and thereby ensures compliance against all relevant scheme guidance, regulation, and legislation.

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